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UWRA-Madison

THE SIFTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

TRAVEL EXCURSION

Lake Geneva Holiday Tour

We'll start our day on December 7 with a light holiday treat at the Verona Senior Center (108 Paoli Street, Verona) before boarding the bus for the Lake Geneva area. Tour stops include:

Pesche's Greenhouse, Floral Shop, and Gift Barn, a destination for Lake Geneva residents for more than 50 years. The garden center transforms into a Christmas wonderland, and the floral and gift shop feature a unique mix of plants, flowers, seasonal tea towels, decorative pots, yard and garden art, and more.

Pier 290 We'll enjoy a meal before the Santa Cruise, including a salad, entree, dessert, and coffee/tea. (Cocktails, beer, soda is available at an additional personal cost). Entrée options include:

- Atlantic Salmon (pan-seared filet served with vegetable and potato)
- Crusted Chicken Breast (baked, with parmesan sauce and vegetable)
- Tenderloin Stroganoff (beef tenderloin with onions, mushrooms, and cream sauce, served over pappardelle pasta)
- Bacon Mac & Cheese (macaroni, bacon, cheddar & jack cheeses, garlic breadcrumbs, green onions).

Christmas Tree Festival We'll walk through the festival, where kids (of all ages!) send their wish lists to Santa.



Santa Cruise The heated Christmas cruise boat, decked out in holiday lights, will take a 40-minute tour of holiday lights on the lakeshore. Watch out for Santa Claus himself and listen to hear whether your name is on the "Naughty or Nice List!" Note the boat is accessible for boarding, but the restrooms on board cannot accommodate a wheelchair.

Mystery Stop We are working on a final "holiday mystery stop" on the return journey to Verona. ■

LAKE GENEVA HOLIDAY TOUR

Thursday, December 7

10:30 A.M.–7:30 P.M.

(Times subject to change)

Registration Deadline: Noon, November 14

\$100 per person (includes bus, admission fees, meal, taxes, and tips)

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAMadison.org/event-5443946

FROM THE UWRA PRESIDENT'S DESK

Fasten Your Seatbelts (It Might Be a Bumpy Ride)

BY TOM BROMAN



As readers of the *The Sifter* know from last month's issue, Sandi Haase, our executive director since 2017, announced her retirement from the position effective September 30. Sandi leaves behind an admirable record of accomplishments and service. Above all, she kept the organization running

during the COVID pandemic, making the transfer to web-based meetings and presentations. We all owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude for her outstanding work on behalf of the UWRA.

It is no exaggeration to say that Sandi is irreplaceable—literally, because despite searching for a new executive director for several months, we have been unable to find one. Given all that was needed to keep things going during COVID, this is perhaps hardly surprising, because the position grew in responsibility and complexity. Yet we now face the novel and challenging circumstance of maintaining the organization without having anyone to fill the role.

Let me answer one question that will occur to at least some of our members—why not hire a paid executive director, transforming what began in 1999 as a volunteer position into a salaried one? After all, such a move has been contemplated in the UWRA's own Strategic Framework (see the document at uwra.wildapricot.org/page-1075430). However, to hire someone even for a 50% position would cost us more than \$60,000 per year at a bare minimum, once benefits and other mandatory add-ons are thrown into the equation. To institute a recurring cost of that magnitude lies well beyond our current resources.

Thus, the board and the membership must find other ways to move forward. In my own view, the solution to our current predicament lies in simpli-

fying some of our procedures and adapting others to be carried out by UWRA volunteers and committees in ways that we are now trying to determine. I wish I could predict that the passage to a new way of operating will be smooth. In all likelihood, it will be a little bumpy, although we will do everything we can to make the UWRA continue working for you. That is our primary requirement and goal.

Every difficulty that we confront also opens the door to new possibilities, something that I am sure many of us have personally experienced. We need to seize this moment to take another look at the UWRA, to ask what it can do better for its members and move in new directions. I hope we can count on your support, your ideas, and your help. ■

✓ **THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FROM INTERACTION AND REWARD

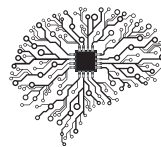
Thursday, November 9

2:00–4:00 P.M. Online Webinar

Registration Deadline: November 3

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5293289



**This is the second webinar in
a two-part series on
Artificial Intelligence (AI).**

BREAKFAST AT ELIE'S CAFE

909 E. Broadway, Monona, WI

9:00–10:30 A.M. In-person gathering

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Join fellow UWRA members for breakfast (or a cup of coffee or tea) once a month for lively conversation. No registration needed.



No breakfast gathering will occur in December.

Monthly breakfasts will resume on January 23, 2024.

NEW ON BOARD

UWRA and WORT Volunteer

BY JANE RICHARD, UWRA SECRETARY



I grew up in Racine, Wisconsin, and earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a master's in library and information science, both from UW-Madison, both in the previous millennium.

I retired from the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty (OSoF) in 2022, after serving as the deputy secretary of the faculty for nine years. The OSoF is responsible for the Faculty Senate and about 30 shared governance committees. My favorites to staff were the Committee on Committees (Tom Broman was on this committee for a few years!) and the Committee on Honorary Degrees.

Before working at the OSoF, I was a librarian for 25 years at Wisconsin Library Services (housed in Memorial Library) as a trainer/consultant and at the Wisconsin Historical Society as a catalog librarian.

My husband Jonathan Cooper and I moved to Madison's isthmus in 2001 into a house built in 1898. There's always a project in progress. Jonathan was a librarian at the Wisconsin Historical Society for 35-ish years.

Since living downtown, I've volunteered at the community radio station WORT-FM (89.9), mostly as an engineer for the popular "Back to the Country" program hosted by historian Bill C. Malone (until 2020). I was twice elected to the WORT Board of Directors, where I was secretary and head of the personnel committee. More recent gigs at the station are related to lending support for on-air fund drives, and "other duties as assigned." ■

WEBINAR RECAP

Demographics and the Economy

BY TOM EGGERT, MEMBER, ROC AND CFMR

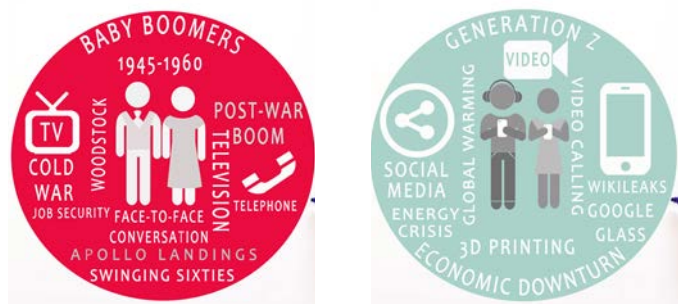
Sam Sorenson, Emmy Award-winning producer, provided an eye-opening presentation on how the number of people in various generations impact economic and business decisions. Demographers divide the world into generations, including the Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials.

Baby Boomers were once the largest demographic group, but they have been replaced now by the Millennials, young adults born from roughly 1985 to 2005. They are currently the largest group of home buyers, pet adopters, and consumers of motorcycles. They are entering their time of maximum consumption, given the families that they are creating. The economic impact of this large group of consumers makes a recession very unlikely according to Sorenson.

An additional interesting aspect of the study of demographics is that large generations produce similarly large generations. Just as the Baby Boomers produced the Millennials, the Millennials will create a not-yet-named new generation, which technically will start in 2025. This new generation will create an outsized economic demand for items related to babies and young children.

This webinar was sponsored by the Retirement Opportunities Committee and the Committee on Financial Matters in Retirement.

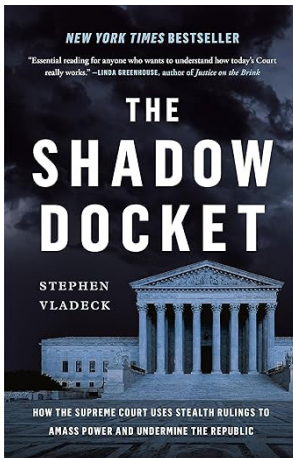
Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2023-24 Sep-Dec to find a video and a PDF of this presentation. ■



RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES WEBINAR

The Shadow Docket: The Supreme Court's Stealth Rulings

BY TOM EGGERT AND MICHAEL BERNARD-DONALS,
MEMBERS, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE



The Supreme Court has received a lot of attention in the last several years for its extreme rulings on such matters as abortion rights, environmental regulations, and affirmative action. But there's another very important court procedure that doesn't receive nearly as much attention: the aptly named "shadow docket."

These are the cases that occur outside of the court's regular docket and usually involve urgent matters, such as requests for emergency stays, injunctions, and other types of temporary relief. These cases are often decided through brief orders—that is, without oral arguments, full written opinions, or even disclosing how the justices voted. In recent years, the court has increasingly used the shadow docket to effectively make major decisions, sometimes with devastating effects.

Stephen Vladeck will talk about the shadow docket's history, how it continues to undermine the Supreme Court's credibility, and how most of these decisions are not based on any kind of legal rationale or precedent.

If you have preliminary questions for the speaker, please email them in advance to program coordinators Tom Eggert at tleggert@wisc.edu and Michael Bernard-Donals at michael.bernarddonals@wisc.edu by Wednesday, November 29. ■



Stephen I. Vladeck holds the Charles Alan Wright Chair in Federal Courts at the University of Texas School of Law and is a nationally recognized expert on the federal courts, constitutional law, national security law, and military justice. He is the author of *The Shadow Docket: How the Supreme Court Uses Stealth Rulings to Amass Power and Undermine the Republic* (Basic Books, 2023) as well as several law casebooks. He is a Supreme Court analyst for CNN and edits the weekly newsletter *One First* about the court. Vladeck is the co-host, together with Bobby Chesney, of the National Security Law Podcast.



THE SHADOW DOCKET

Tuesday, December 5

10:00 A.M.—NOON Online Webinar

Registration Deadline: December 1

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5304009

Online registration for UWRA Zoom webinars is easy, but members may also email the UWRA office at retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu or call 608-262-0641 to register for events.

Webinar links and call information are included in registration confirmations and reminders emailed to registrants 7 and 2 days prior to events.

Need help with Zoom? Contact UWRA.tech@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

There are two ways to find and view videos of UWRA recorded seminars dating back to 2019, on scores of interesting, pertinent topics. You can easily access the recordings either on the UWRA website ([UWRAmadison.org/](https://UWRAmadison.org/Resources/Presentations)Resources/Presentations, then date and title), or by visiting the UWRA YouTube channel at youtube.com/@uwramadison8563/videos. PDF documents of many of the speakers' presentations can also be found on the UWRA website. ■

FINANCIAL MATTERS WEBINAR

Tax Updates for Seniors and Planning for 2024

BY DON MINER AND FAISAL KAUD, MEMBERS, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RETIREMENT



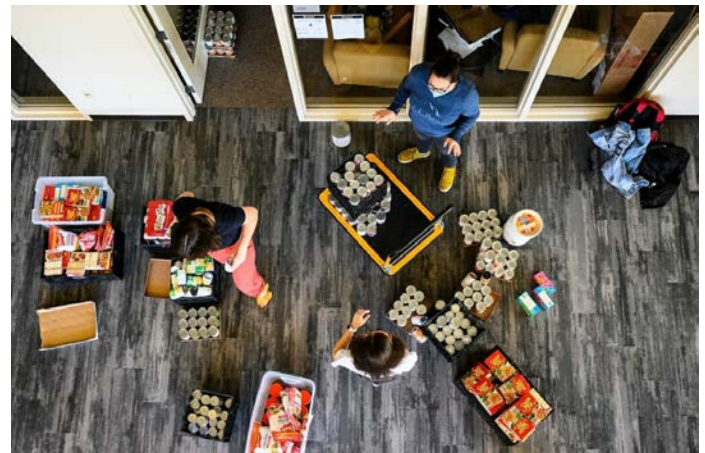
Join us for a discussion with Dave Glova about all tax topics of interest to seniors. He will be addressing several topics including:

- IRAs: qualified charitable distributions, required minimum distributions, rollovers, withholding
- Hidden tax traps: brackets, Roth conversions, IRMAA
- Edvest: new Roth conversion option, optimizing distributions
- Wisconsin taxes: special subtractions, capital gains and losses, itemized deduction credit
- Time permitting: hobby income, self-employed health insurance deduction, gambling taxation, identity theft, and record retention.

If you have preliminary questions for the speaker, please send to program coordinators Don Miner at dlminer655@gmail.com and Faisal Kaud at fakaud@wisc.edu, by Monday, November 6. ■

TAX UPDATES FOR SENIORS
Monday, November 13
 10:00 A.M.–NOON Online Webinar
Registration Deadline: November 9
 Advance registration is required. Register online at:
UWRAmadison.org/event-5284237

Dave Glova retired as a chemical engineer and began volunteering as a tax preparer for AARP’s TaxAide program in South Carolina. He became an instructor for the program and then assumed the role of state training coordinator. Towards the end of his seven-year volunteer work, he added on paid tax preparation work for the clients of an investment advisor. He also volunteered to teach a multi-session course on “Taxes for Seniors” at Furman’s University’s Osher Lifetime Learning Institute. When Glova moved to Fitchburg (grandkids-related), he began working as a seasonal tax preparer for SVA, an accounting firm on Madison’s west side. He worked there for nine years before retiring again. And just as before, he volunteered with the AARP TaxAide program for this past tax season (since it is difficult to golf during the winter here in Wisconsin).



FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

In lieu of registration fees for most UWRA webinars and programs, donations are encouraged to the Open Seat Food Pantry that serves food-insecure UW students. The pantry is a project of ASM, Associated Students of Madison, and strives to provide healthy, accessible sources of food, household products, and personal-care goods to any enrolled student in need. Learn more about it at asm.wisc.edu/the-open-seat/. Checks payable to UW Foundation, with “Open Seat” on the memo line, may be mailed to: UWRA, 21 North Park Street, Room 7205, Madison, WI 53715-1218. ■

MEET A UWRA MEMBER

From Nematodes to the Middleton Mayoralty

BY GURDIP S. BRAR

My wife Dorothy (who worked at UW–Madison for 35 years) and I have lived in Wisconsin for 42 years (41 years in Middleton) and raised our two children here. I still can't throw away my children's artwork from elementary school.



I grew up in a small village in Punjab, India, and earned my B.S and M.S. at Punjab Agricultural University. In 1970, I came to the U.S. for my Ph.D. in genetics at the University of California, Riverside.

I met Dorothy in one of my genetics classes. We were married in 1976 and moved to India, where I joined the faculty at my alma mater as an assistant professor. Our daughter Gloria was born there.

In 1980, we moved back to the U.S., where I accepted a position at the University of Missouri, Columbia, working on nematode-resistant soybeans. Our son Victor was born there.

In 1981, I joined Agracetus, a biotechnology company founded in Middleton by UW–Madison professor Winston Brill. My department conducted the first field test of any genetically engineered plant (tobacco) in the world. This opened up the plant biotechnology research that helped Agracetus become a world leader in producing genetically engineered soybeans, cotton, corn, and other crops. After retiring from Agracetus, I worked briefly at Nutra Park, a biotechnology company founded by UW–Madison professor Jiwan Palta.

As our kids grew up, I became deeply involved in

volunteer work with Kiwanis clubs, the schools, soccer clubs, the Good Neighbor Festival Board, and the city Sustainability Committee. One thing led to another, and I was elected to the Middleton City Council in 2008. In the middle of my fifth term on the council, I was elected mayor, serving for two 3-year terms. What an opportunity to help people!

My favorite UWRA activity is attending the monthly breakfast with my wife and her friends in Monona. Our favorite place on the UW campus is the Memorial Union Terrace. We also love the Arboretum, especially the flowering crab apples and lilacs in the spring. Our arboretum is magical!

Our next travel plans include visiting our daughter and her family near Berkeley, CA, where she is on the faculty in the molecular biology department. Our son is on the faculty of the physics department here at UW–Madison, so our ties to the university grow ever stronger. ■

September 1–30, 2023

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carol Aspinwall, *School of Medicine and Public Health*

Jay Bonnell

Sanee Bonnell, *Family and Community Medicine*

Pam Frederick, *Division of Business Services*

Kristin Marlow, *Mathematics*

Janelle McMannes, *Stem Cell Transplant*

Ralph Middlecamp



{ The UWRA is your network in retirement! }

ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

Knitting through the Years

BY JANE DYMOND, UWRA MEMBER

On a beautiful, sunny day in 2013, I was traveling on the Whidbey Island ferry to Port Townsend, Washington, standing at the railing and enjoying the view. A voice behind me said “Is that Hazel Carter’s ‘Tiger Eye’ shawl”?

I was indeed wearing that shawl, designed by UW-Madison professor of African languages and literature, Hazel Carter. (The wonderful Blackberry Ridge Woolen Mill outside Mount Horeb has Hazel Carter designs, as well as lace-weight yarn: blackberry-ridge.com.)



I began knitting at age 5 in the 1950s, copying what my mother’s hands were doing. She met weekly with friends she had known since they were at UW-Madison in the 1930s, always with their knitting, to

talk about books and politics, about their families, about life.

When I moved back to Madison in early 2001, a friend took me to a meeting of the Madison Knitters Guild, which was founded in 1981. At that time, about 80 people attended the monthly meetings, featuring nationally known knitting designers and “show and tell” by members. The Guild is still going strong, with about 800 members. You can learn more about them at madisonknittersguild.org.

That summer of 1981, I was fortunate to attend Meg Swansen’s annual summer Knitting Camp in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Meg is an internationally known designer, author, and teacher. She is also the daughter of Elizabeth Zimmermann, who began Schoolhouse Press (schoolhousepress.com) in the 1950s, hosted several public television programs, published many innovative patterns, and encouraged all knitters to think for themselves and not be “blind followers.”

The Madison area has several excellent yarn stores. At the Sow’s Ear in Verona, knitters enjoy coffee, pastries, and lunch along with yarn shopping (knitandsip.com). The Sow’s Ear offers a wide variety of classes for anyone interested in knitting.

Fiddlesticks Knits is a newer shop on Atwood Avenue (fiddlesticksknits.com). Sunset Yarn on Speedway Road offers yet another venue for yarn and inspiration (sunsetyarn.com).

My knitting group has met weekly since 2006. We started with six knitters who did not know each other outside of Guild meetings. Like my mother and her friends, we talk about knitting projects, books, families, and life. We do not talk about politics. One of our original members has moved and, sadly, one recently died.

In about 2004, I knit my mother a Bohus sweater—the Blue Shimmer. (Bohus Stickning was a Swedish knitting cooperative from 1939 to 1969). When my mother died in 2010 at age 99, the sweater came back to me. It suddenly occurred to me in 2022 that my (then) 9-year-old granddaughter might enjoy wearing this unique sweater, and I gave it to her. I am happy to report that she does like it and wears it often. ■

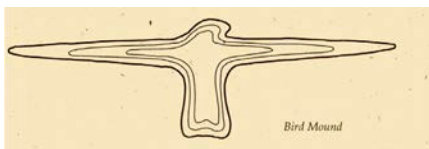


TRAVEL RECAP

Indian Mounds Tour

BY NARRA SMITH COX, UWRA MEMBER

In late September my husband and I joined about two dozen other people for a walking tour of the Indian mounds on the grounds of Lake Mendota Mental Health Institute led by Teri Venker. She didn't claim to be an expert, but she certainly is knowledgeable about the mounds in Madison and beyond and shared her knowledge and enthusiasm.



South-central Wisconsin, and in particular, the four-lakes region of Mad-

ison (and spring-fed Lake Wingra), is an area rich with mounds that were built over several centuries by descendants of the Ho-Chunk people. The site we toured was believed to have been home to a group of about 130 people. Teri invited us to shed our 21st-century perspectives and imagine the land, vegetation, wildlife, water, sky, and sounds the Late Woodland people might have experienced hundreds of years ago.

The mounds were constructed in a variety of shapes—conical or round, linear, or effigy mounds in the form of special animals. The Late Woodland Indians embraced a worldview that reflected the importance of air, earth, and water. Effigy mounds were built in shapes that resembled birds (thunderbirds or eagles), land animals (bear, deer) and water spirits (long-tailed panther).

On our tour, we viewed a number of effigy mounds, some of the hundreds that had been built in the four-lakes region of Madison. The mounds are fairly low and can be hard to identify, especially for the untrained eye. Fortunately for us, the grass had been mowed to follow the contours of the effigy mounds, making the mounds easy to identify. Of particular note were two mounds: the panther water spirit, unusual for its long curved tail, and what is believed to be the world's largest straight-winged thunderbird (or eagle) effigy mound with a wingspan of 624 feet.

Thanks to Teri, we came away from the tour a little more confident that we'll be able to identify effigy mounds in the four-lakes region that aren't quite as recognizable as those we saw on the tour, and we were inspired to learn more about the mounds and the Late Woodland people who created them. Thanks go to Sandi Haase and the UWRA Travel Committee for planning this informative tour. ■

UNIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable Talk on Antimicrobial Resistance

BY LESLEY FISHER, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF

On December 20, Laurel Legenza of the School of Pharmacy will speak to the University Roundtable luncheon on the topic, "Visualizing Antimicrobial Resistance with Geographic Mapping and Real-World Data." All University Roundtable programs are held in Varsity Hall at Union South. Each luncheon begins at 11:45 A.M. and ends by 1:00 P.M. The cost for each lunch is \$15.

Antibiotic resistance is a global health threat. "One Health" recognizes the interconnections in the health of people, animals, and our shared environment. Legenza (PharmD, PhD, and teaching faculty in the School of Pharmacy) and her colleagues are applying geographic mapping and data visualization methods to provide insights into antimicrobial resistance with a One Health approach. Legenza will present research demonstrating how antibiotic resistance varies at neighborhood levels in Wisconsin and across regions. She will also present results examining similarities and differences in antibiotic resistance among host species, including humans, canines, and bovines.

Registration Deadline: December 5
Register at <https://go.wisc.edu/x7mbxm>

Further information about University Roundtable programs is available at acstaff.wisc.edu/programs/university-roundtable/. ■

REFLECTIONS

The Kindness of Strangers

BY MARY BARNARD RAY



Taking turns, something we learn early in life, is a magical social skill. I have had occasion to appreciate it in the past months, as I have been driving around Madison, negotiating confusing and heavy traffic around all the construction sites that have persisted long after the start of the school year and the end of summer's usual road construction season.

Just a few days ago, I let a car get in front of me when two lanes had to merge into one. Soon after, I saw that driver let someone else in. When we are leaving an event at the Alliant Center, I similarly notice that cars tend to take turns merging into the exit lane—until someone butts in by following another car too closely. After that violation of the taking-turns code, other cars begin to crowd in. The tension builds until some brave and wise soul goes back to taking turns. Immediately, order returns, with the next car waiting for its turn, and so on and so on. The magic of this gives me great joy, because it is one place in life where one person can change the future fast enough to see the effect.

We can similarly make a difference in other social exchanges. Be polite to a checkout clerk at the grocery store, and the person behind you is more likely to be kinder, too. Hold the door open for someone, and you are likely to get a smile or perhaps the next door held open for you. Resist the urge to honk at a slower car in front of you, and the person behind you is less likely to honk. When enough people do this, the whole town becomes a place where honking isn't a likely response to a traffic delay, as seems to be true in greater Madison.

I witnessed further evidence of this willingness to share at a potluck dinner last night. It was about the chocolate cake. It was a great cake—moist and

rich, not overly sweet. Everyone seemed to enjoy it, until there was one piece of cake left. There it sat, contemplated by many, no doubt, but taken by none. We all left it there for the theoretical one person who hadn't picked a dessert yet, so no one would be disappointed. At least that is what I imagined was the reason. We all felt the need to share.

In a world where so many issues seem to be overwhelmingly large and complex, it is especially important to notice those places where we do have an impact. Hang onto the awareness of this social kindness whenever you can, especially if you spend much time on social media. For reasons unknown to me, the magic of social kindness does not seem prevalent there. But face to face, at least here in the Midwest, we are still friendly. May we always remain that way. But go ahead and have that last piece of cake. ■

ATTIC ANGEL ASSOCIATION

November Talks at Attic Angel

The Continuing Education Programs of the Attic Angel Association, open to the public, are held Monday mornings at Attic Angel Place, 8301 Old Sauk Road, in Middleton. Coffee is served at 10:00 A.M. and the program begins at 10:30 A.M. There is no charge, and no reservation is required. Program attendees will be asked to screen at the front entrance.

November 6 National Register of Historic Places: Highlights from Dane County and Beyond Daina Penkiunas, state historical preservation officer

November 13 MYARTS: A New Youth Art Center Jessica Courtier, director of Community Partnership for MYARTS

November 20 Native American Burial Mounds in Wisconsin Robert Birmingham, retired state archaeologist, Wisconsin Historical Society

November 27 No program. ■

FRIENDS OF UW-MADISON LIBRARIES

Civil Rights History Lecture Set

BY LIBBY THEUNE, FRIENDS OF UW-MADISON LIBRARIES ADMINISTRATOR

Journalist and author Samuel Freedman, a UW-Madison alumnus, will tell the dramatic story of young Hubert Humphrey, his allies, and his adversaries in the battle for a better nation in Freedman's new book, *Into the Bright Sunshine: Hubert Humphrey and the Forgotten Civil Rights Struggle of the 1940s*. Professor Kathryn McGarr of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication will join him to discuss the complex implications of this struggle that continue to plague us today.



The Civil Rights Movement did not begin with the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Brown v. Board of Education ruling in the mid-1950s. Those landmarks actually followed a decade of fervent, urgent activism against both racism and antisemitism in America during the 1940s. Integral to those efforts was Hubert Humphrey, then the youthful mayor of Minneapolis and a rising star in the Democratic Party.

This free public event will be recorded but not livestreamed. R.S.V.P. for an event reminder and link to the recording available after the event: go.wisc.edu/820p51

The lecture is cosponsored by the Friends of UW-Madison Libraries, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the Center for Campus History, the Center for Journalism Ethics, and the Department of History.

The event will take place November 13 at the Wisconsin Historical Society Auditorium. The lecture and discussion at 5:00 P.M. will be followed by a reception and book signing. ■

✓ SAVE THE DATE

U.S. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Wednesday, December 20
10:00 A.M.–NOON Online Webinar
UWRAmadison.org/event-5419908

Join us for “The U.S. Economic Outlook” with Steve Rick, chief economist for TruStage (formerly known as CUNA Mutual). This is one of UWRA’s most popular annual presentations and promises to be an enlightening and entertaining session on our economy.

HOW TO JOIN A UWRA ZOOM MEETING OR WEBINAR

Meeting reminders are sent to all registrants 7 days and 2 days prior to an event

ZOOM call information is located near the bottom of meeting reminders

ZOOM URL and Passcode
(Take note of Passcode as it may be needed when connecting to the ZOOM event)

NOTE:
Depending on device, platform and email system used, ‘clicking’ (or tapping) on the URL may or may not work.
If ‘clicking’ on the URL does not work, you will need to use the <COPY> command by highlighting the entire URL and <PASTE> the URL into a web browser.

SAMPLE BROWSER METHOD

<COPY> & <PASTE> URL into the browser you use (Google, Chrome, Firefox, etc.)

DID YOU KNOW?

UWRA's Facebook page is open only to UWRA members, not to just anyone on the internet. To join, visit our page at: facebook.com/groups/uwramadison. ■

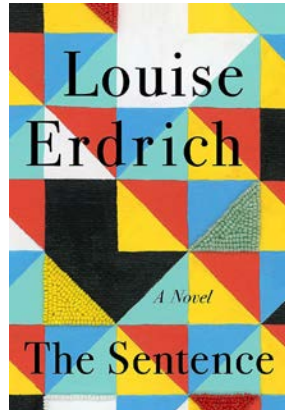
BOOK MARKS

Two Book Club Favorites

REVIEWED BY SHEILA LEARY, SIFTER EDITOR

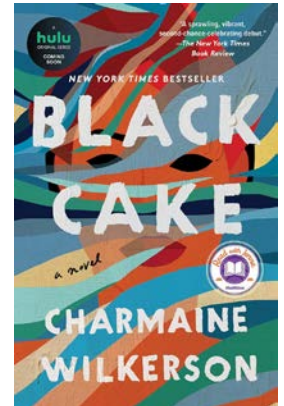
My neighborhood book club recently read these two books, which have been popular nationwide with book clubs.

The Sentence by Louise Erdrich (Harper, 2021) Louise Erdrich planned to write a novel about a ghost in a bookstore, but actual events soon added more drama to her story. The award-winning novelist owns Birchbark Books in Minneapolis, an independent bookstore and locus for Indigenous intellectual and cultural life. As she wrote *The Sentence*, the COVID pandemic unfolded, and the booksellers (both real and fictional) scrambled to stay in business (and alive). Then, George Floyd was murdered blocks away, and the neighborhood erupted in grief, protest, fire, and broken glass. Erdrich wrote the novel in real time,



incorporating these events into a memorable novel of generational trauma and reckoning.

Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson (Ballantine Books, 2022) In another novel about generational trauma and reckoning, Charmaine Wilkerson makes her debut with the secret histories of an American family with a Caribbean past. A teenage girl swims away from her island home under suspicion of murder, leaving behind all that she has known, loved, and feared. A lifetime later, her adult children receive a puzzling inheritance: eight hours of voice recordings and, in the freezer, the last Black Cake that their mother made. (My book club meets tonight, and I'm looking forward to tasting my neighbor's attempt at a black cake.)



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

■ UW-Madison Retirement Association Calendar Dates ■

Visit the UWRAmadison.org website for updates and many additional future events.

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---|
| • Thursday, November 2 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>Neurological Disorders as We Age</i> (V) |
| • Thursday, November 9 | 2:00– 4:00 P.M | Webinar: <i>Artificial Intelligence from Interaction & Reward</i> (V) |
| • Monday, November 13 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>Tax Update for Seniors & Planning for 2024</i> (V) |
| • Tuesday, November 28 | 9:00–10:30 A.M. | UWRA Breakfast at Elie's Cafe (IP) |
| • Tuesday, December 5 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>The Shadow Docket: Supreme Court Stealth Rulings</i> (V) |
| • Thursday, December 7 | 10:30 A.M.–7:30 P.M. | Lake Geneva Holiday Tour (IP) |
| • Wednesday, December 20 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>U.S. Economic Outlook</i> (V) |
| • Wednesday, January 10 | to be announced | Tech Clinic: <i>Personal Fitness Devices</i> (IP) |
| • Tuesday, January 23 | 2:00– 4:00 P.M | Webinar: <i>Life Insurance in Retirement: Is It Needed?</i> (V) |
| • Tuesday, January 23 | 9:00–10:30 A.M. | UWRA Breakfast at Elie's Cafe (IP) |

For information on Board and Committee meetings and deadlines for **The Sifter**, visit UWRAmadison.org.

For information on upcoming PLATO trips, visit platomadison.org/page-18561.

THE SIFTER

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