



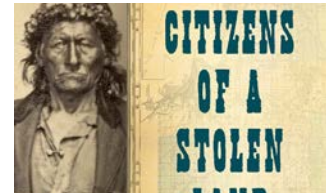
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THE SIFTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

UWRA NEWS

Join the UWRA Retirement Opportunities Committee

BY SCOTT HILDEBRAND AND LAURIE MAYBERRY, CO-CHAIRS, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

The UW-Madison Retirement Association provides opportunities to stay connected with the university and former colleagues, meet community members with diverse interests, and have a more fulfilling and enjoyable retirement.

One way to reap the full benefits of UWRA membership is to get involved with one of the association's committees. As co-chairs of the Retirement Opportunities Committee (ROC), we cordially invite you to check out our committee. The ROC, which is open to new members throughout the year, organizes a wide variety of programs and activities of interest to UW-Madison retirees.

The ROC continuously seeks to identify members' interests and needs and to offer related programs. Just in the past year or so, the committee offered presentations on human-robot interaction, nuclear power and climate change, contested black freedom in Wisconsin, and neurological issues as we age. Presenters included UW-Madison scholars, community members, and experts from across the country. These programs don't just appear out of thin air. They are suggested, developed, and coordinated by members of the committee. It is stimulating and fun to create these programs.

The ROC meets the fourth Monday of each month,



September to May. Please consider joining us! You are welcome to attend a committee meeting to see if what we do fits with your interests and schedule. Please contact ROC committee co-chairs Laurie Mayberry (laurie.mayberry@wisc.edu) or Scott Hildebrand (scott.h.hildebrand@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the group or if you want to learn more.

If the ROC is not your cup of tea, we encourage you to look into other UWRA committees. Among the more active are committees on Electronic Technology and on Financial Matters in Retirement. The association also is revitalizing the Membership Committee, which focuses on marketing, communications, and outreach to potential members.

Thank you for your interest in the UWRA. We look forward to hearing from you! ■



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Moving Forward

BY TOM BROMAN, PRESIDENT, UWRA BOARD



In November 2023, when I wrote about how the UWRA would change in the wake of Sandi Haase's retirement as executive director, I predicted that the transition might be bumpy. And so it has been, although seen externally, not so obviously bumpy as we might have feared.

For the comparative stability of this transition, we owe heartfelt thanks to many people, among them Sheila Leary for her outstanding work as editor of *The Sifter*, Beth Zemp for helping with its production and distribution (in addition to her work as UWRA Treasurer), the continuing support of Barbara Rust and Larry Winkler in maintaining the UWRA's various software-based membership and event functions, and Kevin Niemi, Jane Richard, and Jurgen Patau from the Board of Directors for taking on various responsibilities related to the website, webinars, and schedule coordination. I also want to thank the chairs and members of the Retirement Opportunities, Electronic Technology, and Financial Matters in Retirement committees for taking on the scheduling and hosting of their own meetings. And, last but certainly not least, a big thank you goes out to Marc Fink, board member and oboist extraordinaire, for organizing our upcoming performance, tour, and reception at Hamel Music Center on March 9th. That will be fun.

Based on these efforts and those of other members, the contours of what the UWRA will become in this new era have begun to emerge. Yet so much remains to be done. We need to restore functions that have been on hold in the wake of COVID-enforced isolation. We need to welcome new voices to the table who can help move UWRA toward the future. In other words, we need and welcome *you*—your ideas, energy, commitment, and willingness to participate. Many hands make light work! ■

✓ DO YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO REGISTER?

MAGNIFICENT MILWAUKEE BUS EXCURSION

Monday, March 18

8:00 A.M.—5:30 P.M. | In Person

Registration Deadline: Noon, February 28

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5516692



ASSISTED LIVING, RETIREMENT HOME CONTRACTS, & ESTATE PLANNING

Tuesday, March 5

10:00 A.M.—NOON | Online Webinar

Registration Deadline: March 1

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5395054

PHIL HANDS, EDITORIAL CARTOONIST

Thursday, March 7

10:00—11:30 A.M. | Online Webinar

Registration Deadline: March 4

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5555199

BREAKFAST AT ELIE'S CAFE

909 E. Broadway, Monona, WI

9:00—10:30 A.M. In-person gathering

Tuesday, March 26

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



UWRA NEWS

Invitation to Serve on the UWRA Board of Directors

BY MARY CZYNSZAK-LYNE, NOMINATING CHAIR

We invite you to consider serving on the UWRA Board of Directors. You may self-nominate or submit one or two names of people who would be good candidates to consider for director and/or officer positions. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 8, 2024.

The Board of Directors meets monthly for two hours, September to June. The board receives and reviews reports, develops and approves policies, and oversees the affairs of the association. In addition, each board member serves as a liaison to one UWRA committee that meets 1–2 hours monthly.

The 2024 slate will include candidates for president-elect from the university staff (three-year term), secretary (two-year term), and four board members (one each from the faculty and academic staff, along with two from the university staff).

Please consider volunteering for one of these very important roles. If you would like to nominate yourself or others, email the name(s) to the Nominations Committee chair, Mary Czynszak-Lyne (mary.czynszaklyne@wisc.edu) by Friday, March 8, 2024. We look forward to hearing from you. ■

FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

In lieu of registration fees for most UWRA webinars and programs, members are encouraged to donate 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.

Each year, the number of students visiting the Open Seat Food Pantry has increased and often doubled as the number of students affected by food and resource insecurity grows.

✓ **SAVE THE DATE**

UWRA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, RECEPTION, & SPEAKER

Thursday, June 6

4:00–5:30 P.M. | In Person

UW–Madison Arboretum



With guest speaker **Brenda González**, director of Community Relations, UW–Madison



An estimated 12% or 5,438 UW–Madison students are food and resource insecure. This past year, the Open Seat served over 1,500 students and their dependents.

With this dramatic increase comes an equally dramatic rise in the pantry’s need for financial support. 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. ■

FINANCIAL MATTERS WEBINAR

Annual ETF/SWIB Update

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

In April, the thoughts of UWRA members turn to pensions. That is the month we hear an annual report on last year's performance and the future prospects of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). Our speakers are the leaders of the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB), which manages the investment portfolio of the WRS, and the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF), which administers retirement, insurance, and other benefit programs for more than 675,000 active and retired state employees. This detailed annual report gives us insight into the policies and practices that govern the management of WRS and, importantly, income projections that are helpful in planning our personal finances.

If you have preliminary questions for the speakers, please send to program coordinator Millard Susman at msusman@wisc.edu by Thursday, April 4. ■

ANNUAL ETF/SWIB UPDATE
Thursday, April 11

10:00 A.M.–NOON | Online Webinar

Registration Deadline: April 8

Advance registration is required. Register online at:
UWRAmadison.org/event-5557007

Online registration for UWRA in-person events and 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

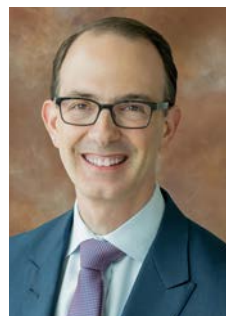
Edwin Denson joined SWIB in 2018 as managing director, asset and risk allocation. He was appointed executive director/chief investment officer in April 2021. Before joining SWIB, he had extensive leadership experience at the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), William Blair & Company, Singer Partners LLC, and UBS Global Asset Management. Earlier in his career, Edwin was an economist at Lehman Brothers, Primark Decision Economics, and Putnam Investments.



Rochelle Klaskin, deputy executive director/chief operating officer, joined SWIB in 2015 as its chief legal counsel. Throughout her more than 20-year career, she has led and advised organizations on board governance and legal matters, daily operations, and strategic transitions and planning. Prior to joining SWIB, she was a shareholder in the corporate practice group at the law firm Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.



Todd Mattina, head economist and CIO of asset and risk allocation, joined SWIB in early 2023. He is responsible for taking a broad view of economic conditions to develop, recommend, and implement SWIB's asset allocation. Monitoring capital market conditions and maintaining valuation models, he supports the agency's investment divisions and determines how best to leverage economic policy to address opportunities, risks, and challenges.



John Voelker, ETF Secretary, was previously deputy secretary and has more than 30 years of public service experience. Prior to joining ETF in 2018, he served as the director of Wisconsin's state courts. He will provide projections for future Core and Variable fund annuity adjustments and highlights of the design elements that keep the WRS strong and fully funded.



ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY

Newer Driving Technologies

BY SCOTT SPRINGMAN, MEMBER, ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Are you thinking of getting a new vehicle? Are you a bit uncertain about adjusting to all the new vehicle technology? Have you heard of AEBs, Adaptive Cruise, and Reverse Safety technologies? How might they make your driving safer? Are you considering an electric vehicle?

Below are links to learn about SmartDriverTEK™, electric vehicles, and related information from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The AARP Smart DriverTEK program was developed jointly by AARP Driver Safety and The Hartford insurance company. **Note: This information is not an official endorsement of AARP or Hartford products by the UWRA.**

You may want to share this information with friends and family members who would find these resources helpful. The AARP Driver Safety virtual events are typically open to anyone, regardless of age or membership status.

- Attend a free Smart DriverTEK workshop for an overview of new vehicle safety technology aarp.cvent.com/c/calendar/43a3dfa0-4f4a-4680-8a7d-2ad-cb34d5c50
- Attend a free AARP Electric Vehicle Virtual Workshop aarp.cvent.com/c/calendar/933cf240-b1b3-4265-9d88-9fd27811c2b2
- Take the Smart Driver™ course, a low-cost online class to refresh your driving skills. You may save on auto insurance, too (consult your insurance agent for details). aarpdriversafety.org/
- Download the free AARP SafeTrip™ app to gain valuable insights into how you drive and reward your successes aarp.org/lp/safetrip-app/
- Watch two-minute AARP videos on vehicle technology and other relevant topics learn.aarp.org/driver-safety-quick-learning?CMP=RDRCT-ADS-QCKLRNING

Here are additional resources mentioned by AARP. Some may require a subscription to access.



- Electric Vehicle Charging Station Locations, U.S. Department of Energy afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity_locations.html#/find/near-est?fuel=ELEC
- Electric Vehicle Incentives by State, National Conference of State Legislatures ncsl.org/energy/state-policies-promoting-hybrid-and-electric-vehicles
- How to Decide If a Hybrid, Plug-In Hybrid, or Fully Electric Car Is Right for You, Consumer Reports consumerreports.org/cars/hybrids-evs/how-to-decide-if-a-hybrid-plug-in-hybrid-or-fully-electric-c-a6216376327/
- Buying an Electric Vehicle? Here Is Some Advice, New York Times nytimes.com/article/electric-vehicle-ev-buying-guide.html

If you have specific tech questions, contact UWRA.tech@gmail.com. If you would be interested in UWRA hosting an in-person clinic on driving technologies or electric vehicles, please contact us at UWRA.tech@gmail.com. ■

RSVP OF DANE COUNTY



Be a Volunteer Driver

Calling all compassionate individuals with a driver's license and a heart for community service! Join RSVP of Dane County's team of volunteer drivers and embark on a journey filled with purpose and impact. From helping seniors get to their medical appointments to ensuring that everyone has access to essential services, your time behind the wheel can change lives. Flexible schedule, no minimum hours required, and mileage reimbursement/extra liability insurance provided. If you are interested in driving, contact Steve Jaeschke, sjaeschke@rsvpdane.org or 608-441-7892. ■

MEET A UWRA MEMBER

Meteorology Pioneer

BY TOM WHITTAKER

I grew up east of Cleveland, Ohio, in the “Lake Erie Snowbelt.” Between the snow, clouds, and thunderstorms, the weather seemed to always be on my mind. In ninth-grade shop class, I made an “instrument shelter” to house my thermometers (all the other kids were making bird houses).

It seemed fitting to pick UW–Madison, renowned for its atmospheric science department, for my BS (1970). I worked a couple of years for the Weather Bureau at Truax Field and came back to school for my MS (1976). During my undergraduate years, I discovered computer science. It was fascinating (punch cards and all), and I was good at it. My department hired me as a student hourly worker and then as a “specialist” to write code in support of graduate students’ research. This led to a career that married computer science and meteorology.

The fledgling UW Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC) was exploring using satellites to observe the weather, and the very first geostationary satellite contained an instrument conceived by Professor Verner Suomi to take pictures of clouds. The images could then be used to compute the wind direction and speeds where no other data was available. I started working on integrating these data with more conventional, land-based observations. This was the start of the McIDAS system (Man-computer Interactive Data Access System)—literally the very first geographic information system (GIS) in the world—that eventually supported the National Weather Service’s Severe Storms Forecast Center, the NASA space shuttle program, companies like FedEx, and the Navy’s weather forecasting in Antarctica.

A workshop held in Madison was the foundation of an NSF-sponsored group in Boulder, Colorado, that now provides free weather data and software to

any school in the Americas. I am proud to have been a part of that group for decades. I also was able to travel a lot (42 countries and seven continents to date) to meteorology organizations all over the world.



After working at the SSEC, I joined forces with Professor Steve Ackerman (yes, that “Weather Guys” fella on WPR and in the newspaper) to create dozens of interactive learning tools for teaching meteorology. I also started tutoring at West High in Madison—mostly math, but also some physics, and I continue that four days a week. The energy of the students at West is amazing.

I’m also a piano player. I gave up doing restaurant gigs years ago and now just play at a retirement center in town. My son lives in Iowa City and got me hooked on the Hawkeyes women’s basketball team. I felt only a little guilty attending the recent game at the Kohl Center wearing an Iowa shirt but stood proudly after the game to sing “Varsity.” After all, some traditions are sacred! ■

January 1–31, 2024

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pamela Asquith, *Medicine & Public Health*

Laurie Brachman,
Marketing

Todd Brachman

Gabriel Chavez

Monika Chavez, *German, Nordic, & Slavic*

Eden Inoway-Ronnie,
Office of the Provost

Pamela Kling, *Pediatrics*

Jose Laboy, *Chemistry*

JoAnne Lehman, *General Library System*

Jean Phillips, *Space Science & Engineering Center*

Michael Rausch

Wendi Speed, *Agricultural & Life Sciences*

Helena Tsotsis, *Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease*

{ The UWRA is your network in retirement! }

ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

Reducing Poverty through Microfinancing

BY TOM EGGERT, UWRA MEMBER

I retired from teaching at UW–Madison in 2019. During my time on campus, I taught the university’s first class on sustainability in 1994. I also participated in the development of the Office of Sustainability and a graduate certificate in sustainability.

Before teaching at UW–Madison, I was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines and traveled throughout Southeast Asia.

It is against this background that I founded Wisconsin Microfinance (wisconsinmicrofinance.com/), a nonprofit that ensures those living below the poverty line in the developing world have access to loans to start or grow a business. Retirement has allowed me to spend more time growing the opportunities we are able to provide.

Wisconsin Microfinance was developed in response to the Haitian earthquake in 2010 and currently supports programs in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, and Pakistan. The organization’s focus is on empowering women in developing countries by providing them small loans.

Donations to Wisconsin Microfinance—a 501(c)(3) organization—are assigned to our partners in the developing world. The money not only funds initial loans, but as it is repaid, it becomes part of a revolving loan fund. Providing loans to individuals (who normally would not have the resources to qualify for a loan) benefits their families and the local economy. We are one of the only microfinance organizations in the world that can document changes in the quality of life of loan recipients and their families. For instance, our data shows loan recipients have meat at a higher percentage of meals, that children from recipients’ families attend school more often, and that recipients have fewer health emergencies.

The microfinance model we use is based on a model developed by Muhammad Yunus through

the Grameen Bank. The bank was founded on the philosophy that the poor have unlimited potential, and that unleashing their creativity and initiative can help end poverty.

Wisconsin Microfinance has provided almost 2,000 loans to partners in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, and most recently Pakistan. And, since all donated money is recirculated, our partners have made over \$300,000 in loans.

Wisconsin Microfinance demonstrates the power and impact of an investment in individuals who need it. When you donate, you are empowering families and communities. You can donate at wisconsinmicrofinance.com/take-action/donate/. ■



WEBINAR RECAP

Life Insurance in Retirement

BY RICK DALUGE, MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RETIREMENT

Steve Penn, a financial advisor and insurance agent with Northwestern Mutual, spoke in January about life insurance in retirement. He discussed the differences between term insurance and whole life insurance, noting how flexible whole life policies can be and how they can be used in retirement.

Whole life policies can be treated as fixed assets as part of a portfolio, can be borrowed against at low rates, can be used to supplement income, and of course can insure a life.

Penn also discussed taxation of the cash values and what portion of a policy that is surrendered is taxable. He also reminded listeners that life insurance proceeds are non-taxable to the beneficiaries upon the insured’s death.

Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2023–24 Jan–Jun to find a video and a PDF of the slides for this presentation. ■

BOOK MARKS

How Minds Change

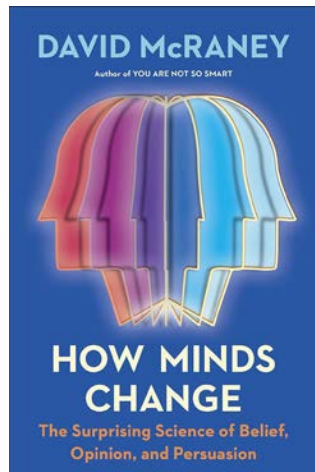
REVIEWED BY HUGH SCHMIDT, MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RETIREMENT & ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Madison section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers is working to bring engineering and environmental studies students together to meet with Wisconsin lawmakers about technologies that address climate change. Propitiously, a Madison Citizens Climate Lobby session recently studied David McRaney's popular and engaging guide, *How Minds Change: The Surprising Science of Belief, Opinion and Persuasion* (Portfolio/Penguin, 2022). This book has been chosen as the 2023-24 "Go Big Read" selection at UW–Madison. There are 24 copies at UW–Madison libraries and 93 (many on hold) in the South Central Library System.

McRaney advises that persuasion is not a debate with a winner and a loser. Rather, by focusing on motivations more than on conclusions, we can help people to better understand their own thinking. We may be able to "listen," rather than talk, a person into agreeing with us.

In an engaging narrative covering his own journey of discovery, McRaney elaborates on four persuasion techniques that apply Socratic dialog to investigate what distinguishes justified belief from opinion. With the most prominent technique, "street epistemology," we invite a discussion partner to make an empirical claim and then we paraphrase his claim to confirm we accurately understand what he intends.

Importantly, when using this technique, we ask him to quantify his level of confidence in his claim and to qualify the reasons for this level of confidence. Such followup questions are intended to



reveal possible contradictions and weaknesses in his reasoning. The objective is to help him to iteratively move away from focusing on the claim and to think independently about the reliability of the method that he typically uses to judge the quality of his reasons for holding a given belief.

A similar and highly effective "deep canvassing" persuasion technique has been devised to influence a respondent's political views by investigating how deeply held beliefs about an issue evolve. Research at Yale and the University of California, Berkeley found that nonjudgmental personal stories shared by the canvasser about someone affected by the issue are essential here.

A Dartmouth researcher elsewhere proposes that robust discussion that results in consensus synchronizes brains physically. Conversation is our greatest tool to align minds. ■

UNIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE

Speakers to Address Mapping Teejop and Climate Change

University Roundtable luncheons and talks are held in Varsity Hall in Union South, 11:45 A.M.–1:00 P.M. The registration fee is \$15 and includes lunch. Registration and payment must be received in advance; there will be no day-of registration.

Register at:

talent.wisc.edu/Catalog/Default.aspx?CK=77420

March 20 Mapping Teejop: Creating a Digital Place-Based Experience with Gareth Baldrice-Franklin, Kasey Keeler, and Sasha Maria Suarez. **Register by March 5.**

April 10 Climate Change in Wisconsin with Daniel Vimont. **Register by March 26.**

If you have ideas for speakers for University Roundtable or questions about the program, please contact Lesley Fisher at roundtable@soas.wisc.edu or 608-263-1011. ■

FRIENDS OF THE UW-MADISON LIBRARIES

Citizens of a Stolen Land: A Conversation on Ho-Chunk History and Survivance

BY LIBBY THEUNE, ADMINISTRATOR, FRIENDS OF UW-MADISON LIBRARIES

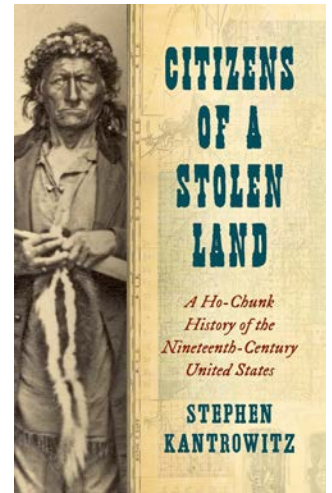
How did the United States and its settlers lay claim to the Ho-Chunk people’s ancestral homeland and what is now UW-Madison? How did the Ho-Chunk people resist those claims and remain in their homeland?

Through lively conversation, UW-Madison history professor, Stephen Kantrowitz, and Josie Lee, Ho-Chunk Nation Museum and Cultural Center director, seek to illuminate these questions. Using their research and working from within the Ho-Chunk community and from the outside, the observations of these scholars will shed new light on the history of Ho-Chunk sovereignty, citizenship, and the continuing impact of Native people's struggles and claims on U.S. society. This event will be recorded but not livestreamed.

Kantrowitz is the author of the 2023 book,

Citizens of a Stolen Land: A Ho-Chunk History of the Nineteenth-Century United States (University of North Carolina Press).

The presentation will be held on Tuesday, March 12, from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M., with a reception and book signing to follow the talk at the Chazen Museum of Art Auditorium.



Pre-registration is not required for this free event, but R.S.V.P. for an emailed event reminder and to receive a link to recording available after the event:

go.wisc.edu/bq9sw3 . ■

DID YOU KNOW?

UWRA's Facebook page is open only to UWRA members, not to just anyone on the internet. Feel free to post and comment about events, news, and issues important to you. To join, visit our page at facebook.com/groups/uwramadison. ■

Friends
UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-MADISON LIBRARIES

CITIZENS OF A STOLEN LAND:
A CONVERSATION ON HO-CHUNK HISTORY AND SURVIVANCE

How did the United States and its settlers lay claim to the Ho-Chunk people's ancestral homeland?
How did the Ho-Chunk people resist those claims and remain in their homeland?

STEPHEN KANTROWITZ
UW-MADISON HISTORY PROFESSOR & AUTHOR

in conversation with

JOSIE LEE
HO-CHUNK NATION MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER DIRECTOR

TUESDAY, MARCH 12
5:00-6:00 P.M. PRESENTATION & Q&A
6:00-7:00 P.M. RECEPTION & BOOK SIGNING

CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART AUDITORIUM
800 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

Scan to RSVP & receive event recording
Image Source: Wisconsin First Nations

REFLECTIONS

Spritz on the Fritz!

BY MARY BARNARD RAY



Recently, members of our church were going to visit homebound members and wanted to deliver some homemade cookies. I volunteered to make a few dozen cookies. In a moment of weakness, however, I decided to make spritz—those fancy cookies you squeeze out of a specially made spritzer. It had been quite a few years since I had made spritz cookies, so I had forgotten about my last experience. (See last month's column.)

Had I remembered, I would have gone for tollhouse cookies instead. But memory failing me, I got out the spritz tool from a remote cabinet and printed up the recipe. I had two hours to make them between appointments, which I thought would be adequate. First misstep: I had not gotten out the butter the night before to get it up to room temperature. Enter the microwave option; I heated the butter in 10- or 5-second intervals until it seemed soft enough. That hurdle surmounted, I creamed in the sugar and salt. As I added the egg and vanilla, I realized that I was out of almond extract. But I did have some fancy and expensive “Fiori de Sicilia” I had received as a gift, so I substituted that. Second hurdle surmounted. These were going to be high-class cookies.

The batter seemed fine, and the oven was warm. However, when I squirted out the first spritz cookie, it seemed to prefer sticking to the spritzer rather than the baking pan. I tried removing it carefully with a knife, and that resulted in a delicate but unrecognizable blob on the pan. Worried but not yet discouraged, I sprayed the grid on the spritzer with nonstick cooking spray and tried a second cookie. It still stuck to the pan. Maybe I put too much pressure on it? Nope. Maybe too little? Nope. Maybe the batter needed to be warmer? Cooler? I

kept trying different techniques, which resulted in a few well-shaped cookies, but no approach worked consistently. At this point I was a bit desperate because time was running out, so I asked the important question, “What would Lucy do?”

Remember the *I Love Lucy* episode where she works packing chocolates that come down a conveyor belt? That was my solution! I'd eat the cookies that came out as blobs. And I would buy some of those slice-and-bake tollhouse cookies. Problem solved, I got the required two dozen cookies ready and delivered them to the church. The blobby cookies tasted great!

Fearing that I would forget about my experience in a year or two, I sent the spritz device to the recycle bin. I didn't want to risk sending it to Goodwill, where it might wreck the plans of some other naïve baker in the future! ■

ATTIC ANGEL ASSOCIATION

March 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.

March 4 Aldo Leopold, Natural Soundscapes and the Spirit of a Place Stanley Temple, professor of conservation, wildlife ecology, and environmental studies, UW–Madison

March 11 The Efforts to Save Wisconsin's Endangered Bumblebees and What You Can Do to Help Judy Cardin, community scientist and bee website owner, working with the Wisconsin DNR and UW–Madison Arboretum

March 18 When Day Turns to Night: How to Experience the Upcoming Total Eclipse of the Sun James Lattis, director, UW Space Place

March 25 Wisconsin's Role in the 2024 Presidential Election Charles Franklin, professor of law and public policy and director, Marquette Law School Poll ■

MADISON SENIOR CENTER

Sláinte Irish Dancers and Ireland Travelog Slated for March

Sláinte Irish Dancers will perform at the Madison Senior Center on Monday March 11, 2:00–3:00 P.M. Sláinte Irish Dancers are a club at the University of Wisconsin–Madison that fosters Irish culture at the university and in the greater Madison area.

Their show will begin in light shoes with traditional Ceili dancing and student choreography. They will then transition to heavy shoes, similar to tap, for more upbeat dances. Learn a bit about the history of Irish dance and celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day.

On Wednesday, March 20, 1:00–2:00 P.M., Joe Fahey will offer a travelog talk, “Ireland: A Colorful Tour of the Emerald Isle.”

In this fun, informative pictorial presentation, Fahey will discuss some of the key points of Irish culture, both past and present. Fahey has traveled to 47 countries on six continents and is passionate about studying customs and local people.

The Madison Senior Center is located at 330 W. Mifflin Street. Call 608-266-6581 to register for either event, or email seniorcenter@cityofmadison.com. ■

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE

Diving into History: The Lake Mendota Canoes

Amy Rosebrough, the Wisconsin state archeologist, will talk about the canoes found in 2021 and 2022 in Lake Mendota and their importance in history. The State Archaeologist is an office associated with the State Historic Preservation Office of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS).

In 2021, Wisconsin Historical Society maritime archaeologist Tamara Thomsen found a dugout canoe in Lake Mendota that dated to AD 800. Its recovery made international news, and it was selected as one of the top ten archaeological discoveries in the world in 2021. In 2022, another canoe—this time dating to 1000 BCE—was found in the same location. These discoveries are rewriting the history of Lake Mendota and highlighting the deep history of De Jope.

The event will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 11:00 A.M., at the Maple Bluff Country Club. The reservation deadline is Sunday, March 10.

For more information including how to register, visit: univleague.wisc.edu/programs/. ■

■ 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)

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| • Tuesday, March 5 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>Estate Planning & Assisted Living</i> (V) |
| • Thursday, March 7 | 10:00–11:30 A.M. | Webinar: <i>Phil Hands, WSJ Editorial Cartoonist</i> (V) |
| • Saturday, March 9 | 1:00–3:00 P.M. | Concert, Tour, & Reception at UW Hamel Music Center (IP) |
| • Monday, March 18 | 8:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M. | Day Trip: Harley Davidson Museum & Mitchell Park Domes (IP) |
| • Tuesday, March 26 | 9:00–10:30 A.M. | UWRA Breakfast at Elie’s Cafe (IP) |
| • Thursday, April 11 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>Annual ETF & SWIB Update</i> (V) |
| • Tuesday, April 23 | 9:00–10:30 A.M. | UWRA Breakfast at Elie’s Café (IP) |
| • Monday, May 13 | 1:00–3:00 P.M. | Seminar: Don’t Leave Your Heirs Picking up the Pieces (TBA) |
| • Friday, May 17 | 8:45 A.M.–5:30 P.M. | Day Trip: <i>Beautiful</i> , Carole King Musical, Fireside Theatre (IP) |
| • Thursday, June 6 | 4:00–5:30 P.M. | Annual Members Meeting, Reception, & Speaker (IP) |

For information on events, 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

UWRAmadison.org

UW–Madison Retirement Association

c/o Division of Continuing Studies

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