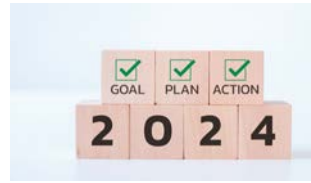




Renew Membership | p. 2



UWRA Annual Meeting, Speaker, Reception | p. 3



End-of-Life Planning, In-Person Seminar | p. 3



UWRA Appraisal Fair | p. 5



THE SIFTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

UWRA NEWS

Candidates for UWRA Board of Directors Announced

BY MARY CZYNSZAK-LYNE, CHAIR, NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The nominations committee presents this partial slate of candidates for the June election. Additional candidates will be announced later.

Secretary Mary Czynszak-Lyne (Chin-shock-Line) retired in June 2016, after nearly 44 years of service to UW-Madison. In her last position, she served as program administrator for the College of Letters and Science Honors Program. She was actively involved in university staff shared governance, the University Staff Executive Committee, and related committees, as well as numerous campus-wide committees and projects. She had the pleasure of serving on the search and screen committee for Chancellor Blank. She received emerita status upon retirement and is now a member of the university's Retirement Issues Committee and its Design Review Board.



Mary's activities for UWRA are: past-president, project lead of strategic planning, and service on several committees. She also is chair of the City of Madison's Ethics Board, chair of the city's Joint Campus Area Committee representing the Regent Neighborhood, and secretary and university relations chair for the Regent Neighborhood Association.

University Staff Rep Larry Winkler has been a UWRA member since 2017. For the BOOT committee, he was instrumental in the implementation of the UWRA member management software and website. Larry is a three-timer at UW-Madison, having received an undergraduate degree in psychology (statistics/comp sci), a masters in computer science, and JD in law. He practiced law for ten years before returning to his computer science roots at the State of Wisconsin and UW-Madison. Larry retired from DoIT in 2011, having led the team designing and building the classified and unclassified HR recruitment system, known as JEMS. Larry has served on the boards of several organizations over the years and looks forward to contributing to the UWRA Board.



Academic Staff Rep Jane Richard was elected secretary of UWRA in 2023 and is now running for the Academic Staff seat for a different term. She has served as board liaison on the

Electronic Technology Committee. She retired from the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty (OSoF) in 2022, after serving as the Deputy Secretary of the Faculty for 8 years. She was formerly a librarian for 25 years at Wisconsin Library Services as a trainer/consultant and at the Wisconsin Historical Society as a catalog librarian. Jane also volunteers

Continued on p. 4

FROM THE UWRA PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's Spring: Time to Renew Your UWRA Membership



BY TOM BROMAN

Spring brings so many wonderful things in the Midwest. Right now, for example, I am expecting my sheep to give birth to their lambs. That's always an exciting and nervous experience.

But even without that sort of drama, spring offers us the promise of gardens to tend, travel, and pleasant afternoons outside. Lastly, along with these other pleasant reminders of good days to come, spring is also when we remind you to renew your UWRA membership.

- Aside from the regular annual membership (\$30), the UWRA offers several special membership categories.
- "Bargain" memberships (\$150) allow you to get 6 years of membership for the price of 5 years, a 17% discount over the annual membership price.
- "Life" memberships (\$400) are available to anyone receiving a Wisconsin Retirement System annuity, or who has a household partner receiving a WRS annuity.
- "Out of Area" memberships (\$15) if you live in zip codes

other than 535xx, 537xx, and 539xx.

- "Out of Area Bargain" (\$75), six years for the price of five.
- "Not Yet Retired" (\$15).

Membership renewals can be handled quickly online at uwramadison.org/Join-Renew, or you can use the print membership form below on this page of the *Sifter* and send it in together with a check.

If, like me, you tend not to pay attention to when memberships expire, you can find out when your UWRA membership comes due in one of several ways. You can log into uwramadison.org and then go to your member profile. Or if you receive the *Sifter* in digital form, you can look at the email that sends the newsletter to you. Alternatively, if you receive the *Sifter* through the mail, then the mailing label on your copy will tell you when your membership expires.

We hope you will renew and continue to enjoy the many benefits that UWRA membership brings, including a variety of travel opportunities, interesting and diverse online and in-person programs, informal breakfast gatherings, and best of all, special occasions like the wonderful recital that many of us recently enjoyed at Hamel Hall and the upcoming annual meeting and speaker at the beautiful UW Arboretum (see p. 3).

There's much more to come next year. Do join us for the adventure! ■

UW-Madison Retirement Association Membership Application and Renewal Form

(Please Print)

Name		Spouse/Partner Name	
Email		Spouse/Partner Email	
Are you retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Year you retired?	Are you retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Year you retired?
Retired from? (Department)		Retired from? (Department)	
Classification <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Staff (limited) <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty (limited) <input type="checkbox"/> University Staff		Classification <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Staff (limited) <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty (limited) <input type="checkbox"/> 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.			AMOUNT
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Bargain (6 yrs.) \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$400 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet Retired \$15 Outside of 535xx, 537xx, 539xx: <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 (1 yr.) or <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (6 yrs.)			

- 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

✓ THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER

END OF LIFE PLANNING

Monday, May 13

1:00–3:00 P.M. | In Person
Oakwood Village, University Woods
6205 Mineral Point Rd, Madison (room tba)

Registration Deadline: May 10, 2024

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5587797

UWRA ANNUAL MEETING, SPEAKER, & RECEPTION

Thursday, June 6

4:00–5:30 P.M. | In Person
UW Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison
\$19.00 per person

Registration Deadline: May 19, 2024

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5505404

UWRA NEWS

Donate to the Open Seat Food Pantry

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.

An estimated 12% or 5,438 UW-Madison students are food- and resource-insecure. With this dramatic increase comes an equally dramatic rise in the pantry’s need for financial support. In 2022–23, UWRA members contributed \$2635 to Open Seat. As of Spring 2024, we’ve collected only \$1515. Please donate if you can.

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. ■

Time to Renew or Begin Subscriptions for the Print Edition of *The Sifter*

The full-color digital edition of the UWRA’s *Sifter* newsletter is emailed free of charge to all members. However, if you wish to start or renew a paid subscription to the *print edition*, now is the time to do so. The annual print subscription covers the cost of printing and mailing ten issues (September 2024–June 2025). You can subscribe by logging on to UWRAmadison.org and clicking on “STORE,” or complete the subscription form below and mail it to the UWRA Office. ■

Subscription Order Form for the Print Edition of *The Sifter*

- Print edition subscriptions run concurrently with a membership UWRA Fiscal Year (July 1-June 30)
 - Subscriptions are renewable annually
 - Multiple year subscriptions not available at this time
 - *The Sifter* print edition is limited to mailing to U.S. addresses only
- NOTE: All members receive a digital edition of *The Sifter* monthly.

I wish to subscribe to *The Sifter* print edition 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](https://UWRAmadison.org/Store) to order



Published Monthly
From
September to June

**PRINT EDITION
SUBSCRIPTION
COST
\$15 ANNUALLY**

UWRA NEWS

Board candidates, continued from p. 1

at community radio station WORT-FM (89.9), twice elected to the board of directors. Jane grew up in Racine and earned a BA in anthropology and a master's in information science from UW–Madison.

Board candidates still to be announced:

- President-Elect (University Staff, 3-year term)
- Faculty Rep (3-year term)
- University Staff Rep (1 year term). ■

TRAVEL RECAP

Magnificent Milwaukee

BY REGINA AND GEORGE DUNST, UWRA MEMBERS



Tom Tews and Laura Hemming trying out the 2024 models.

In chilly March, a group of UWRA and Verona Senior Center members enjoyed a warm bus ride to Milwaukee to visit the Harley-Davidson Museum. In addition to showing the progression of motorcycle styles since 1903, the museum provides the history of the company, including intermittent financial troubles that threatened its continued existence.

Of particular interest was a Harley-Davidson motorcycle that washed up off the coast of British Columbia in 2012. It was eventually determined that it belonged to a Japanese man who'd lost his home and some family members in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. When he learned that the motorcycle had traveled to Canada, he donated it to the museum, since it is no longer in any condition for riding. The museum display includes a map of the ocean currents that brought the motorcycle to North America.

After a fine and filling lunch at Harley's Motor Bar Restaurant, we headed to the Mitchell Park Domes to tour the plant displays in the tropical and desert domes. Many thanks to the trip planners! ■

TRAVEL

Choose Your UWRA Adventures!

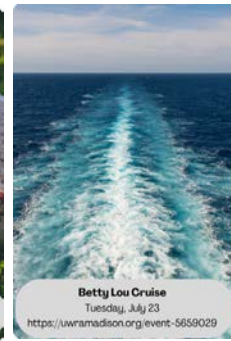
UWRA's partnership with the Verona Senior Center offers an enticing variety of travel opportunities this summer and fall, from a nearby day trip to Baraboo to adventure abroad in Portugal. Find the details at the links. Register promptly to ensure your place.



Galena, Illinois
Wednesday, June 12
<https://uwramadison.org/event-5619296>



Brewers Game
Wednesday, June 26
<https://uwramadison.org/event-5626468>



Betty Lou Cruise
Tuesday, July 23
<https://uwramadison.org/event-5659029>

Charming Galena, Illinois

Day Trip: **June 12, 8:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M.**

uwramadison.org/event-5619296

Brewers vs. Texas Rangers

Day Trip: **June 26, 10 A.M.–5:30 P.M.**

uwramadison.org/event-5626468

Betty Lou Cruise of Lake Mendota

Self-Drive Local Outing: **July 23, NOON–2:00 P.M.**

uwramadison.org/event-5659029

Adventures in Dubuque

Overnight Bus Trip: **August 4–5**

uwramadison.org/event-5631161

Baraboo Delights (Crane Foundation, Lavender Farm)

Day Trip: **August 20, 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.**

uwramadison.org/event-5668281

Discover the Colorado Rockies

Multi-day Bus Trip: **August 30–September 7**

uwramadison.org/event-5519811

Apple Holler Orchard

Day Trip: **September 24, 7 A.M.–4 P.M.**

uwramadison.org/event-5645581

Discover Sunny Portugal

Multi-day Overseas Trip: **October 27–November 5**

uwramadison.org/event-5529920 ■

RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES

What Is Your Treasure Worth? Free UWRA Appraisal Fair Set

BY LAURA DUGUID, MEMBER, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

Have you ever wondered about the value of something you or a family member owns? Perhaps you just want more information about an heirloom, collectible, or quirky treasure. Now is your chance to get answers at a free appraisal fair offered exclusively for UWRA by The Leonard Company, a national auction house and appraisal firm with offices in Madison and Milwaukee.

A team of Leonard’s credentialed appraisers will examine, identify, and value attendees' treasures.

- Please bring only one item per person.
- No books, weapons, or large furniture.

Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 40 participants, so register promptly.

The event will take place at the Expansive co-working space in downtown Madison. There is ample street parking, or validated parking is on Level F in the garage behind The Hyatt Place.

If you have preliminary questions for the appraisers, please email them to program coordinator Laura Duguid at laura@theleonardcompany.com by Tuesday, May 14. ■

Laura Duguid has been appraising personal property since 2019, working closely with attorneys, trust officers, wealth managers, and private clients to provide certified appraisal reports. She currently oversees the Leonard Company’s Madison and Milwaukee offices. Prior to joining The Leonard Company in 2019, she owned a vintage shop and held a management position with a New Uses Resale franchise. She currently performs more than 25 appraisal projects per year and is an accredited member of the International Society of Appraisers.



WHAT IS YOUR TREASURE WORTH?

Tuesday, May 21

1:00–3:00 P.M. | In Person
at the Expansive event space
345 West Washington, 3rd floor

Registration Deadline: May 17

Advance registration is required. Register online at:
UWRAmadison.org/event-5639320

Lex Huckabay has been appraising personal property since 2013, working closely with lawyers, bank officers, guardians, and private clients to provide certified appraisal reports. Prior to joining The Leonard Company in 2019, she held positions with Everything But the House (EBTH) and MIR Appraisal Services. She currently performs or oversees more than 100 appraisal projects per year and is an accredited member of the Appraisers Association of America.



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

MEET A UWRA MEMBER

Time on the Prairie

BY JOCELYN MILNER, UWRA MEMBER

I retired in 2022, after 19 years as vice provost for academic affairs, directing UW–Madison’s then-office of Academic Planning and Institutional Research (now Data, Academic Planning, and Institutional Research (DAPIR)). I first came to the university in 1988 as a post-doctoral researcher and held several positions over my 34-year career. Retirement has many great features—among them is having more time to be with friends and family and the opportunity to spend time outside every day.

Outdoor time includes volunteering for prairie restoration and land conservation. I’m content to pull weeds and cut brush all day. But my happy place is seed season, the late summer and fall months when seeds are gathered from the prairie and processed for subsequent prairie planting. Strolling in a field of prairie flowers as tall as my head, low sun on seed heads, the buzz of bees, and a collection bag over my shoulder, feeds my soul. Two hundred years ago, prairie and savanna ecosystems dominated our region, but today very little remains. Many organizations are working to bring back prairie landscapes for all the benefits this ecosystem gives us, including bird and pollinator habitat, soil preservation, water quality, and even carbon sequestration.

I volunteer with three great organizations. The first, [Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance](#) (SPCA), is focused on restoration, education, and research on the Sauk Prairie, the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant located just south of the Baraboo Range. I volunteer with land restoration crews and serve on SPCA’s board of directors.

The second is [Dane County Parks](#), which has an impressive volunteer program to help steward its 17,000 acres and dozens of locations; this provides



opportunities close to my home in Madison.

The third organization is [Groundswell Conservancy](#), a Madison-based land trust with the mission to protect special places forever. I contribute through grant writing and policy development. In summer 2023, I formalized my enthusiasm for land conservation by becoming a [Wisconsin Master Naturalist](#).

If prairies interest you, check out the UW Arboretum’s [Curtis Prairie](#), where the concept of restoration ecology started in the mid-1930s with a research project to restore a horse pasture. Named for influential UW botanist John Curtis, it is now a spectacular and mature prairie landscape. ■

March 1–31, 2024

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Janet Bresnahan,

Purchasing

Walter Burt

Deborah Cardinal, *General*

Library System

Tish Duffey, *Housing*

Amy Fruchtman, *Graduate*

School

Susan Kaletka

Andrea Kyser

Gerald O'Brien, *Human*

Ecology

Nadine Pfothenauer

John Pfothenauer,

Mechanical Engineering

Terri Wipperfurth,

Agricultural & Applied

Economics

{ The UWRA is your network in retirement! }

ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

Radio Host Expands Impact at WORT

BY ESTY DINUR, UWRA MEMBER

Volunteering with WORT, 89.9 FM, as the host of the Friday noon show [A Public Affair](#) (APA) isn't new for me. I've been doing it since November 1995. What is new in retirement is having more time to prepare and start new projects.



I arrived in Madison in 1984, at the dawn of the internet and before it became something we all use. My then-husband and I had been listening to shortwave radio for several years and had a lot of information about the world that

most Americans weren't aware of. I started calling the station during APA and sharing that information, which was appreciated by listeners but not so much by the host. In late 1995, after that host left town, I received a call from the station's news director who asked if I wanted to host a show. I enthusiastically accepted.

My mission has been to talk about issues that the mainstream media don't cover and/or talk to the people who are affected rather than to pundits. I am grateful to have been able to do so for more than 28 years and intend to continue doing it until I can't anymore. The support from listeners shows that I am providing a service they need and appreciate. Currently much of my focus is on the Israeli onslaught on Gaza (and the West Bank). I have talked with Palestinians, doctors who spent time in the devastated hospitals and clinics of the strip, historians, and others who tell stories rarely discussed in most American media.

It takes anywhere from one to four hours, sometimes longer, to prepare for the one hour on the air. While still working, Thursday afternoon and evening were dedicated to preparing for the show.

Since retiring in January 2021 as campus and community relations and engagement director at the Wisconsin Union Theater, I can choose another time to prepare.

With that time, I am also leading an effort to convert a studio into a streaming space, i.e., one we can videotape from. This is a complex project that involves a lot of technical considerations, a thing I'm quite ignorant about, so I'm grateful to have four very knowledgeable techies on the team as well as the news director and others. It's a slow and challenging project, but I intend to bring it to fruition as soon as possible. Stay tuned! ■

WRS, SWIB, ETF

Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants Meets Virtually in May

The Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants, which represents retirees from many public employee organizations including UWRA, will hold its annual conference online on the mornings of May 22–23. There is no charge for registration. Speakers will include Edwin Denson of the State of Wisconsin Investment Board, Dale Knapp of Forward Analytics speaking about workforce trends, John Voelker of Employee Trust Funds, and attorney Douglas Poland speaking on "Gerrymandering in Wisconsin: Origins, Challenges, and the Governor's Maps." Find program and registration details at www.wicoa.org/2024conference.html or by calling 608-233-3778. ■

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Join RSVP's Volunteer Drivers

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dane County is looking for dedicated individuals to join our team of volunteer drivers. As a volunteer driver, you'll play a crucial role in helping us reach those in need by providing essential transportation services. Whether it's seniors, veterans, or community members without access to reliable transportation, your support can make a world of difference. Learn more at www.rsvpdane.org or 608-441-7896. ■

ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY

Streaming and Alternatives to Cable TV, an Update

BY SCOTT SPRINGMAN, MEMBER, ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Note: This is an update to the original article from the April 2023 Sifter.

Options for consuming video and audio media in your home have changed much over the last few decades. Broadcast TV has often been supplemented by recorded media on physical tapes, DVDs, Blu-ray, computers, external storage devices, and mobile devices. Cable TV completely replaced over-the-air TV broadcasts for many people. Internet access has provided additional ways to receive remotely based entertainment content. Some people have decided to figuratively “cut the cord” of cable tv and its associated costs, obtaining their programs entirely or mostly via the internet.

You may have heard about Smart TVs and devices such as Android TV, Apple TV, Fire TV, Xbox, and many more. You may hear about shows and films that you can view only on streaming services—Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, Prime Video, and others. You may know that your favorite PBS programs can also be viewed on-demand, at your convenience, on their streaming service, PBS Passport. Possibly you are already using some of these newer devices and services, but perhaps it's all a mystery!

This article reviews some considerations in deciding to replace—or supplement—standard cable TV.

There is a lot to consider, but here's a summary:

- You will need to pay (with either money, or your time viewing advertisements) for media access, programming guides, recording capability, and equipment. You pay less if you accept more advertisements. Standard cable service comes with several added costs that can be significant. Streaming doesn't necessarily mean that you will pay less than cable, and you will still need internet service. Depending on the streaming service and internet speed, picture quality for live TV can be worse. One often-successful strategy to reduce your existing cable monthly bill is to call to cancel your cable service and let them woo you back with reduced pricing.

- You can view local TV channels free over the air (OTA), after buying an antenna, plus optional recording box and paid guides. Recording and guides might require internet access.



- Your TV (plus extra boxes) can use cable, fiber optic, 5G cellular, or satellite to access the internet to obtain paid media sources. Of course, computers or mobile devices use the internet to access many free or paid services.
- A literal showstopper can be your internet speed. Faster is better! Download speeds of 25 Mbps are the minimum for broadband internet. Slow speeds may prevent you from streaming video to more than one TV. Also, check if total data use is part of the cost in using your internet service or mobile device.
- Many useful websites describe streaming services, but a comprehensive and interactive site that displays price and your chosen channels for popular service providers is <https://www.suppose.tv/tv>. (Hint: first, select the channels you need on the left side of the screen.)
- Depending on your preferences, you may be able to access media on one or more TVs, computers, phones, tablets, or other devices. Sometimes this access can be simultaneous, and you might be able to access the content even when you're away from home, via downloads or over cellular or WiFi on your (or others') devices. This may cost more.
- Aside from cost and media options, your overall satisfaction with any new strategy will depend greatly on your comfort with any technical setup, amount of advertising, and how you and your family can adjust to the new guide interface.

Want more details? I've written a 15-page article on these topics, including a glossary of terms, basic questions to consider when thinking about your television viewing, costs, complexities of technology, and more detailed information about specific topics. It includes a lot of useful information with specific recommendations and direct links to sites. Because of space constraints and the length of this article, it is continued on Google Docs at tinyurl.com/awrwdphf. ■

UWRA NEWS

A Round of Applause, Please, for 2023–24 UWRA Volunteers!



The success of our Association results from the time, effort, dedication, and work of the UWRA board of directors, committees, and strategic framework workgroups. These members continue to move the Association forward. Consider joining a UWRA committee today to share your skills, talents, and interests. You can learn more about each committee by visiting UWRAmadison.org.

We want to recognize all committee members for their contributions and celebrate another very successful UWRA year. In recognition of their efforts, the Board of Directors has approved a \$500 donation to the UW–Madison Open Seat Food Pantry. Please join in thanking:

Rachel Baker, Electronic Technology

Michael Bernard-Donals, Retirement Opportunities, Board of Directors

Dorothy Brar, Travel

Tom Broman, Board of Directors, *Sifter* Columnist

Bruno Browning, Electronic Technology

Dan Catlin, Auditor

Kathy Christoph, Electronic Technology

Mary Czyszczak-Lyne, Board of Directors, Strategic Framework–ED Transition, 2023 Big 10 Conference

Rick Daluge, Financial Matters in Retirement

Marcy Doelp, Electronic Technology, UWRA Facebook Administrator

Laura Duguid, Retirement Opportunities

Ruthi Duval, 2023 Big 10 Conference

Bob Dye, Financial Matters in Retirement

Jane Dymond, 2023 Big 10 Conference, Strategic Framework–ED Transition

Tom Eggert, Financial Matters in Retirement, Retirement Opportunities, 2023 Big 10 Conference

Marc Fink, Board of Directors, Luncheon & Reception

Marian Fisher, Financial Matters in Retirement

Susan Fuszard, Travel

Ramona Gasper, Board of Directors, 2023 Big 10 Conference

Joan Gillman, Financial Matters in Retirement

Sandi Haase, Business Office & Operations Team, Webmaster, Financial Matters in

Retirement, 2023 Big 10 Conference, Travel, *Sifter* Proofreader

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Lisa Hildebrand, *Sifter* Column Coordinator

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Gail Holmes, Travel

Brad Hughes, Electronic Technology

Orv Jordahl, Electronic Technology

Faisal Kaud, Electronic Technology, Financial Matters in Retirement, Retirement Opportunities

Sharon Kluender, Retirement Opportunities

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Ken Mount, Financial Matters in Retirement

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Tim Norris, Financial Matters in Retirement

Jurgen Patau, Board of Directors, Business Office & Operations Team, Financial Matters in Retirement

Sara Potts, Luncheons & Receptions

Mary Barnard Ray, *Sifter* Columnist

Paul Reichel, Electronic Technology, Financial Matters in Retirement

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Jane Richard, Electronic Technology, Board of Directors, *Sifter* Proofreader

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Karen Schwarz, Travel

Sandee Seiberlich, Electronic Technology, Travel

Jack Sorenson, Financial Matters in Retirement

Scott Springman, Electronic Technology

Millard Susman, Electronic Technology, Financial Matters in Retirement, Retirement Opportunities

Judith Taylor, Financial Matters in Retirement

Jim Vannes, Electronic Technology

Barbara Wiley, Luncheon & Reception

Larry Winkler, Business Office & Operations Team, Strategic Framework–ED Transition

Beth Zemp, Board of Directors, Business Office & Operations Team, Strategic Framework–ED Transition, *Sifter* Distribution Coordinator

Kathy Zweifel, Financial Matters in Retirement ■

REFLECTIONS

Downsizing Dilemmas

BY MARY BARNARD RAY



For a woman whose favorite subject was accounting, my mother had an unusually playful sense of style. Her everyday dishes were the sturdy brown stoneware that looked like beer glasses filled and overflowing with foam.

She was not deterred by the fact that no one in our family drank beer, or alcohol of any kind. At fancy meals, her crystal champagne glasses were used for sherbet or fruit salad. For decoration in the dining room, she displayed the midcentury classic collection of fake fruit, but draped it from little scoops on an old conveyer belt she cleaned up and nailed to the wall.

She also collected ashtrays, which might not have been so unusual in the 1950s except that no one was EVER allowed to smoke in our house, let alone in our family. Nevertheless, the coffee table held a large, black, sleek ashtray made to look like a panther creeping threateningly beside a pond. Occasionally she filled the ashtray with hard candies. She also had a small ashtray shaped like an elephant holding up a dish where one could put a cigarette butt. I never heard the story behind her purchase of either of these ashtrays.

The prized piece in her ashtray collection was a tinted glass number that bore the words "I stole this from the Golden Nugget Casino." It resided in the china hutch, but she occasionally took it out to show visitors. She was especially proud that she had this even though we had driven well around the outside of "Sin City" on vacation, believing it too dangerous to actually enter. Instead, she had procured the ashtray in the hotel where we stayed near Hoover Dam, from which we could see the glowing lights of Las Vegas, even in the 1950s. Since they had already obviously stolen it, she felt excused to "collect" it.



The most unusual items she held dear, however, were from her childhood. One was a china-headed doll that she had managed to keep unbroken into adulthood, except for the feet. Her younger

sister, in a fit of anger one day, had taken a rock from the stream to those delicate feet. As adults, neither one of them remembered what had caused my aunt's anger.

The other item my mother especially valued was a large teapot in the shape of a camel, with the neck and head of the camel serving as a spout, the curved tail serving as a handle, and a little driver sitting on top as the lid. I don't think my mother ever used it to serve tea, but she kept it in the center of the china hutch all her life. It was a Christmas gift from an older sister, who had saved up the large sum of 25 cents to buy it for her.

I think of these items now as I work to downsize my own collection of items. I have managed to get rid of her ashtrays and beer-foam dishes, but I still have the china-headed doll and the camel teapot. I don't think I can talk any of my children into holding on to these items. But somewhere out there, there must be a collector who would appreciate their provenance. I'm not sure I can part with these items to an anonymous, online purchaser. Such is the sentiment that I have inherited. ■

BREAKFAST AT ELIE'S CAFE

Tuesday, May 28

9:00–10:30 A.M. | In Person
909 E. Broadway, Monona, WI

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



ATTIC ANGEL ASSOCIATION

May 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.



May 6 Bareback Riders and Educated Elephants: Wisconsin's Amazing Circus Heritage Pete Shrake, archivist, Circus World

May 13 Sports, Sports, Sports! Mike "Jocko" Jacques, Sports Director, NBC15

May 20 Future of the Electoral College Ken Mayer, author and professor of political science, UW-Madison

May 27 No program (Memorial Day) ■

ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY

Digitizing Memories: Take the Survey, Please

BY JANE RICHARD, KATHY CHRISTOPH, BRAD HUGHES, AND SCOTT SPRINGMAN, MEMBERS, ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Electronic Technology Committee is planning a Fall 2024 program on saving digital memories. We need your input to design the program. If you have photos, home movies, cassette tapes, etc., calling for your attention, your experience is invaluable to us! If you'd like to learn more about preserving these memories in digital form, please participate in our *short* survey, which will be open until May 31, 2024, at go.wisc.edu/erxf90.

If you are reading the print edition of *The Sifter*, to get the link in your email (or to get a paper copy of the survey), please send a message to UWRA.tech@gmail.com. Or, mail a request to: UWRA, 21 N. Park St., Room 7205, Madison, WI 53715-1218. ■

■ UW-Madison Retirement Association Calendar Dates ■

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

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---|
| • Monday, May 13 | 1:00–3:00 P.M. | Seminar: <i>End of Life Choices</i> (IP) |
| • Friday, May 17 | 8:45 A.M.–5:30 P.M. | Day Trip: <i>Beautiful</i> , Carole King Musical, Fireside Theatre (IP) |
| • Tuesday, May 21 | 1:00–3:00 P.M. | <i>What's It Worth?</i> UWRA Appraisal Fair (IP) |
| • Tuesday, May 28 | 9:00–10:30 A.M. | UWRA Breakfast at Elie's Café (IP) |
| • Thursday, June 6 | 4:00–5:30 P.M. | Annual Members Meeting, Reception, & Speaker (IP) |
| • Wednesday, June 12 | 8:45 A.M.–5:30 P.M. | Day Trip: Charming Galena, Illinois (IP) |
| • Tuesday, June 25 | 9:00–10:30 A.M. | UWRA Breakfast at Elie's Café (IP) |
| • Wednesday, June 26 | 10:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M. | Day Trip: Brewers vs. Texas Rangers, Milwaukee (IP) |
| • Tuesday, July 23 | NOON–2:00 P.M. | Self-Drive to Betty Lou Cruise of Lake Mendota (IP) |
| • Sun–Mon, August 4–5 | 8:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. | Overnight Trip: Adventures in Dubuque, Iowa (IP) |
| • Tuesday, August 20 | 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. | Day Trip: Baraboo–Cranes, Lavender, and More (IP) |
| • August 30–September 7 | 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. | Week-long Trip: Discover the Colorado Rockies (IP) |
| • Tuesday, September 4 | 7:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. | Day Trip: Apple Holler, Sturtevant, WI (IP) |
| • October 27–November 5 | 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. | Week-long Trip: Discover Sunny Portugal (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

21 North Park Street, Room 7205

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UW–MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Website: UWRAmadison.org

Phone: 608-262-0641

Email: retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu

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IN THIS ISSUE

UWRA Board Candidates pp. 1 & 4

It's Time to Renew Your UWRA Membership p. 2

UWRA Annual Meeting & Reception, June 6 p. 3

In-person Seminar: *End-of-Life Planning* p. 3

Donate to the Open Seat Food Pantry p. 3

Renew Print Subscriptions to the *Sifter* p. 3

Travel Recap; Upcoming Excursions & Activities p. 4

Free UWRA Appraisal Fair p. 5

Meet a Member: Jocelyn Milner; New Members p. 6

Activities in Retirement: WORT Talk Show Host p. 7

Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants Meeting; Volunteer Drivers Needed for RSVP of Dane County p. 7

Streaming & Alternatives to Cable TV p. 8

Thank You, UWRA Volunteers! p. 9

Reflections Column: Downsizing Dilemmas p. 10

Monthly UWRA Breakfast p. 10

Attic Angel Activities p. 11

ETC Digital Memories Survey p. 11

UWRA Calendar p. 11