

The SIFTER

A NEWSLETTER OF THE UW-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

on the web at <http://uwra.wisc.edu>

phone 608-262-0641 or email retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu

Editor: Mary Barnard Ray Layout: Colleen McCabe



RETIREMENT
ASSOCIATION
University of Wisconsin-Madison
October 2016

Master the UW library website

by Louise Robbins, Member, Electronic Technology Committee

Ever feel lost in the most recent version of the University libraries' web site? Here's your chance to get oriented.

Julie Arensdorf, instruction librarian for UW-Madison Libraries, will provide a guided tour of the General Library System website. Julie will ask attendees to share how they have used the libraries in the past and use that experience and any of their frustrations to launch her presentation. She will provide a refresher on doing a basic book or article search and will guide us to resources such as newspapers, special collections, and grants information. We'll learn how to borrow materials through interlibrary loan. In addition to helping us understand the riches of the site and how to do some basic navigation, we will learn where to go for help.

Using the General Library System website
Thursday, October 13, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Fitchburg Public Library conference room
5530 Lacy Road

If you want to surf along with Julie, bring your own laptop or other device and your UW login information.

Parking

The Fitchburg Public Library is located just off Fish Hatchery Road, about two miles south of the Beltline. Turn left (east) off Fish Hatchery Road onto Lacy and then left into the Town Hall and Library parking area. There is a large parking area and an underground parking garage with elevator access to the second floor, where the meeting will be held.

Food pantry contribution

The food pantry recipient for this event will be the First United Methodist Church. Both cash and checks payable to that organization will be accepted.

Registration

Seats are limited to 45, so if you want to attend, please sign up at retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu or call the UWRA office at 608-262-0641.

Explore Cuba without leaving Madison

by Sarah Potts, Member, Connections Committee, and
UWRA Board Member

Join UWRA members **Rick and Peggy Daluge** and **Gail Holmes** as they show parts of their trip video and discuss the challenges of travel without credit cards, cell phones, a checkbook, and the internet. See the devastating effect of the embargo and the future challenges imposed by the Cuban government.

Rick and Peggy have been organizing international travel for over 15 years, and Cuba has always been on their bucket list. So, as soon as travel restrictions were loosened, they developed an itinerary that the country allowed. Last January, their efforts came to fruition and they were off on a Cuban adventure with their group.

Cuba travelogue
Tuesday, October 18, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
MGE Innovation Center
Irving Shain Conference Room (Room 50)
510 Charmany Drive

Directions

Proceed west on Mineral Point Road past the Whitney Way intersection. The next traffic light is Rosa Road; turn left (south). At the third opportunity to turn left (one street and two driveways), turn left at the MGE Innovation Center sign, though it says 505 South Rosa Road. Proceed to the farthest building, noting the vertical white numbers 510 painted on the glass hallway between the buildings. The parking lot is on the left. Enter and proceed immediately downstairs. The conference room is at the base of the stairs.

Food pantry contribution

The food pantry recipient for this event will be the Personal Essentials Pantry. Both cash and checks payable to that organization will be accepted.

Registration

Advance registration is required. Contact the Association Office by October 13. UWRA members may bring a guest; please indicate the name when you register.

Financial seminar to help you understand estate and probate issues

by Karen Holden and Kathy Zweifel, Members, Committee on Financial Matters in Retirement

Emeritus Professor **Howard Erlanger**, JD, PhD, UW Law School, will cover the basics of estate planning in a lively session that will have you at the edge of your seat and will address questions such as the following.

- What do I own? How does community property affect what I own?
- Is it true that some—maybe all—of my property is not governed by my will? (Spoiler alert: Your will is not your estate plan.)
- Why do I need to coordinate my estate plan?
- What's a trust? Do I need one? Do my kids need one for my grandchildren?
- What about powers of attorney? Funeral arrangements? Taxes?
- Wouldn't eternal life be easier than all this estate-planning *mishegas*?

Estate Planning 101—The Essentials
Wednesday, October 19, 10:00 a.m. to noon
Oakwood Village University Woods
Arts and Education Center
6205 Mineral Point Road

Parking

Enter Oakwood grounds at the traffic light at Island Drive and Mineral Point Road. Take the left fork, then the second driveway on the right to enter visitor underground parking. Push the button for assistance. Park in any visitor stall and take the elevator to the first floor lobby and look for signs. (The garage door opens automatically when you exit in the car.) You may also park in a surface visitor parking spot (marked spaces along the drive and up the hill towards the large lot). On foot, enter Heritage (6205) at its entrance (third driveway on the right, at stop sign), or enter the auditorium doors directly from the lower drive.

Food pantry contribution

The food pantry recipient for this event will be the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Both cash and checks payable to Good Shepherd will be accepted.

Registration

If you plan to attend and receive a copy of the speaker's handouts, please register before noon on Wednesday, October 12, by contacting the Retirement Association office at retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu or 262-0641 and leaving a message. If you or your companion registered for the seminar but cannot attend, please call 262-0641 by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the program.

Financial seminars are offered free to UWRA members, and members may bring a guest who is not a member of the Retirement Association. If you plan to bring a guest, please indicate that when you register.

The IRS celebrates baby boomer birthdays

by Faisal A. Kaud, Member, Committee on Financial Matters in Retirement

The very first baby boomers turned 70 ½ in July. The Internal Revenue Service is celebrating because income tax laws require that individuals reaching the age of 70 ½ start drawing the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their tax-deferred retirement savings. They must pay income tax on this income.

If you were born between January 1 and June 30, 1946, you must decide whether to take your first RMD this year or delay your first withdrawal until April 1 of next year. From then on, you must take your RMD by December 31 of every year. If you defer your first withdrawal until 2017, you will be expected to take a second withdrawal by the end of 2017. If you were born between July 1 and December 31, 1946, you can wait until next year to take your first RMD or postpone it until 2018. Note that taking two RMDs in one year could put you into a higher tax bracket and perhaps trigger higher Medicare premiums, and it might affect your social security taxes.

Here is how to calculate your RMD for 2016.

1. Add up the total value of all of your tax-deferred retirement savings accounts as of December 31, 2015.
2. Divide it by your current life expectancy as shown in the Internal Revenue Service Publication 590-B (2015), Appendix B, Life Expectancy Tables.
3. You can withdraw your total RMD from one of your tax-deferred retirement accounts or distribute it in any way you choose among several such accounts. If you do not take the required withdrawal by the deadline, you face a penalty of 50% of the amount you should have withdrawn.
4. Finally, you have an opportunity to reduce your taxes by giving up to \$100,000 of your RMD to charity. This transaction can be accomplished by transferring funds directly from tax-deferred retirement accounts to your chosen charities. The funds given to charity can then be omitted from the gross annual income reported on your tax return.

Develop your family mythtory

by Sheila Spear, Co-Chair, Electronic Technology Committee

Many families have their own myths and tales of origin. I learned this one from my grandmother in 1953. It was the day of the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, an event followed across Britain, and for the first time we would watch it on TV. "You support Oxford, of course," my grandmother said to me, in a voice that brooked no argument. When I asked why, she told me this tale. We were descended, she said, from a Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, who had been Prime Minister in the time of Queen Anne in the early 18th century. And, she said, Robert had been executed, having been defeated in a power struggle by the Duke of Marlborough, whose descendants included Winston Churchill, who had some connection with Cambridge. Hence I must always support Oxford in this annual event.

As time passed, I learned more about this ancestor of ours. The first discovery—somewhat disappointing—was that, while indeed he had been prime minister, and while the rivalry for the favor of Queen Anne was true, he had not been executed. Rather, he died of natural causes, probably accelerated by drink. Still I never questioned the essential authenticity of the tale. My skeptical historian cousin, however, challenged me to find out for myself. After many months of tracing this family story to its roots, I had to acknowledge that my cousin was correct. Our direct ancestor had the same name as the son who succeeded Robert as Earl and lived at the same time, but he lived a few miles away and thus could not be a member of the noble family. By this time, though, I no longer cared whether grandma's story was true, for I had found many far more interesting pieces of information about my ancestry, which I now enjoy sharing with the next generation. And I am not above creating my own myths, sometimes in error and sometimes just for fun.

Presentation on family history

Thursday, October 26, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Fitchburg Public Library, second floor meeting room
5530 Lacy Road**

Lori B. Bessler, Reference Librarian with the Wisconsin Historical Society, will provide an introduction to exploring your family history. Bring examples of your researches if you care to share them, and be ready to share your hopes and queries if you are starting, your experiences and suggestions if you are well on your way on this journey.

Parking

The Fitchburg Public Library is located just off Fish Hatchery Road, about two miles south of the Beltline. Turn left (east) off Fish Hatchery Road onto Lacy and then left into the Town Hall and Library parking area. There is a large parking area and an underground parking garage with elevator access to the second floor, where the meeting will be held.

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If you plan to attend and receive a copy of the speaker's handouts, please register before noon on Wednesday, October 19, by contacting the Retirement Association office at retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu or 262-0641 and leaving a message. If you or your companion registered for the program but cannot attend, please call 262-0641 by 11:30 a.m. on the day of the program.

Welcome UWRA theater enthusiasts!

*by Bob Blitzke, UWRA Member and PLATO Theater
Field Trips Organizer*

The PLATO 2016-2017 theater field trips season promises to be the best ever. It is a 14-trip series comprising musicals; classics; Pulitzer, Tony, and other award recipients and nominees; and new plays from up-and-coming playwrights and directors, all performed in four Milwaukee and four Chicago venues. We invite you to join our theater trips this season for personal enrichment, merriment, and adventure. The performances scheduled include "Man of La Mancha," "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill," "The Royale," "Hamilton: An American Musical," "A Celebration of Irving Berlin," "Blues for an Alabama Sky," "Disgraced," "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," "Mr. and Mrs. Pennyworth," "Grounded," "An Evening With Groucho," "Jane Eyre," and "Moby Dick."

Learn more by signing up for the free PLATO Theater Enthusiasts and Monday News Brief email newsletters. Simply email bblitzke@gmail.com with your request. For further details about play dates, times, and venues, go to platomadison.org/page-18561.

Executive Director's corner

by Ann Wallace

Kudos to some unsung heroes who have recently provided behind-the-scenes support essential to the smooth functioning of UWRA.

- Former board member Debbie Lauder, one of my Excel consultants, used her expertise to help identify a problem with the email address list used to send electronic issues of *The Sifter*. Her assistance ensured that the September issue was not delayed.
- Former editor of *The Sifter*, Sharon Vinson, helped by proofreading the September issue in the absence of current editor, Mary Ray, who was out of town during production week. Sharon's eagle eye is as sharp as ever.
- When the office printer went to the recycling center, UWRA member Cliff Dillhunt agreed to install the very different, new printer. His computer-related and training skills were put to good use, and he was patient in answering my many questions.
- You see her name primarily as the manager of the UWRA web site, but Pat Noordsij provides a variety of information on all things technological from her home in Bayfield. Most recently, she diagnosed a problem with the online membership directory, which she designed several years ago. Gremlins got into it because of several typos in the dates—not a fault of the design—and altered some of the data. Pat also identified a way to prevent a similar problem in the future.

Readers see regular evidence of the contributions of our officers, board members, and committee chairs, but the efforts of the above four people went beyond business as usual, and they deserve to be recognized and thanked.

Because of the above-mentioned problem with the online data base, this would be a good time for each of our members to check their listing and, if necessary, restore any information that disappeared. See the following article for instructions. You might want to print them for such future use as submitting photos for or voting in the upcoming photo contest.

Finding the online membership directory

by Ann Wallace, UWRA Executive Director

Please note that these instructions might vary a bit depending on your browser. The important details for you to have are the username, password, and PIN.

To find the online membership directory, go to our UWRA website, uwra.wisc.edu, and click on "Membership." At the top of the membership page you'll see a link to "Directory Information."

At Members Only Links, click on "Directory Listing/Address Update."

Enter the following information in the appropriate boxes:

Username: directory

Password: uwra53706

Submit.

Select "Update my listing."

Enter your last name.

Then your unique PIN—first 4 letters of your last name (or less for those with short names) + your zip code (5 characters) + last 4 digits of your phone number.

When finished updating, scroll down to the box "Update my address" and click.

Welcome to these new members of the Association 8-10-16 through 9-13-16

Martin & Lorraine Cadwallader

Marcy Doelp

Paul & Nancy Donahue

Marian Fisher

Carolyn Gilmore

Susan Grass

Linda & Don Grunewald

Marilyn & Willy Hellenbrand

Greta Lindberg

Louis Loeffler

Sheila Lynch

Carol Noreen

Michael Rankin

John Schmitz & Jean Tretow-Schmitz

Lillian Tong & Tom Yin

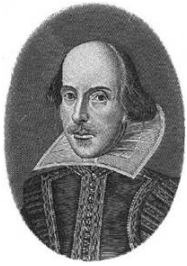
UW-Madison Retirement Association
NOVEMBER LUNCHEON and MORNING PROGRAM
Monday, November 14, 2016

Morning program at 10:30 a.m. and luncheon at 11:45 a.m.

Coliseum Bar & Banquet, Parkview Hall, 232 East Olin Avenue

(Enter through front door, take stairs or go straight and turn left for elevator)

Shakespeare is the focus of the day. Presenting the morning program is **Brenda DaVita**, artistic director of the American Players Theatre. In its 37 years, American Players Theatre has grown from an audacious dream to one of the leading classical theaters in the country. Brenda will share how she ended up running a theater in the middle of the Wisconsin woods and what she believes to be some of the keys to APT's success: that good storytelling is more than just entertainment; that a little isolation, such as that found in the woods near Spring Green, is a boon to the artistic process; and that how you do your work is as important as the work you do.



To continue the Shakespeare theme, Assistant Professor of English **Joshua Calhoun** will share "Shakespeare's Books." We're used to seeing Shakespeare's plays as books. When an APT show pulls us in, we can go to our bookshelves or the public library after the show to reread the play and learn more. But which books did Renaissance audiences look to if they wanted to know more about "Macbeth" or "As You Like It"? In this talk, we will explore the 16th century books that inspired Shakespeare's plays, and we'll even look at images of some of those books from UW-Madison's own Special Collections.

Josh specializes in Shakespeare, 16th and 17th century poetry, and the history of media. As a Faculty Affiliate at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, he teaches courses in the environmental humanities as well. Josh is also the co-founder of Holding History, a mentorship-driven public engagement project that trains an interdisciplinary group of students to share their knowledge and the resources of the campus with the broader community. We welcome two of those students to our program today.

The pantry recipient for this event will be the First United Methodist Church. We can accept cash and checks made payable to that organization.

The luncheon entrees are pork roast with mushroom sauce, wild rice pilaf, and maple-glazed baby carrots or vegetable rigatoni (Kalamata olives, Roma tomatoes, spinach, portabella mushrooms, guacamole, fire-roasted peppers, and fresh herbs with rigatoni in a white wine butter sauce). Both meals include a salad of mixed greens with garden vegetables and choice of dressing, fresh-baked rolls and butter, and beverages of coffee, milk, soda, and water.

The Luncheon Committee: Darrell Barth, Doug Bradley, Pat Henrikson, Sarah Potts, Christine Schindler, Joel Skornicka, Barb Wiley, and Gail Holmes (Chair)

UW-Madison Retirement Association Luncheon * Reservations for Monday, November 14, 2016

Please reserve _____ places for the morning program at 10:30 a.m.

Please reserve _____ places for the luncheon at 11:45 a.m. at \$16 per person.

Select an entree per person _____ Pork roast _____ Vegetable rigatoni

Special dietary needs _____

Name/s (please print) _____

Email address _____

Payment of \$16 per person is enclosed. Please make checks payable to UW-Madison Retirement Association.

Mail to UW-Madison Retirement Association
c/o Division of Continuing Studies
21 North Park Street, Room 7229
Madison, WI 53715-1218.

Questions? Call 262-0641.
Please mail in time to arrive
no later than **November 7, 2016.**

What do cheese, cranes, and metal have in common?

by Sue Center, UWRA Member

The answer is Cedar Grove Cheese Factory in Plain, International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, and Dr. Evermor's Sculpture Park in North Freedom, all of which were visited by 48 members of the Retirement Association on August 8. This trip was enlightening, fun, and filled with new and fascinating information. As a bonus, we had perfect weather!

The Cedar Grove Cheese Factory, which is 125 years old and very historic, is nonetheless at the forefront of organic production, grass-based dairy promotion, water treatment, and product innovation. The factory produces BGH-free, organic, and kosher cheeses; it also engages in innovative technology. It uses the Living Machine, which is a working botanical ecosystem that uses natural microbes and hydrophilic plants to clean the wastewater generated by the cheese-making process. The cleaned water is then transferred into a nearby lagoon and then to Honey Creek. The visit included a tour of the ecosystem building, with a walk among the tanks that process the water.

Using great foresight, the factory's current owner, Bob Wills, mentors young cheese makers from around the country. As Bob said, he generates his own competition! Participants took advantage of the opportunity to sample and purchase the marvelous cheese products prior to leaving. The bus tour was accompanied by Allen Liegel, a UWRA member and the son and grandson of previous owners of the Factory. Allen's memories and anecdotes greatly enhanced the tour. The visit was followed by a delicious lunch at the Blue Spoon Café overlooking the Wisconsin River in Prairie du Sac.

The International Crane Foundation works worldwide to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds, and flyways on which they depend. The Foundation currently has specimens from every variety of crane found throughout the world, and it provides breeding grounds for each of them. Two ornithologists from Cornell University began the foundation in 1973 on a farm near the current location, which is the world headquarters. The Foundation also sponsors and conducts field research critical to preserving and bolstering the species. They currently have 110 birds on site, and we were introduced to 13 of the 15 varieties. These included the tallest, Sarus, which is six feet tall; the most abundant, Eurasian; the critically endangered Siberian, which is high-strung; and the white Napped Crane, which lives in the Korean demilitarized zone.

These birds are magnificent, colorful, and at times full of personality. The Foundation grounds were beautiful, with native prairies surrounding the holding areas for the cranes. This remarkable facility is unique and recognized globally for its valuable work.

Dr. Evermor's Sculpture Garden in North Freedom has been featured on the History Channel's "American Pickers," The Discovery Channel, and "Ripley's Believe It or Not," and one truly has to visit this sculpture garden to believe it! Tom Every was an industrial wrecking and salvage expert who amassed scrap metal pieces and furniture to use in his sculptures. The pieces are a whimsical mix of science fiction and Victorian-era design. The collection is extensive, including the "Forevertron," Tom Every's massive 320-ton free-standing structure that's supposed to be a mystical, space-traveling machine made from various parts, including a decompression chamber from an Apollo space mission. A huge interpretation of many orchestra members with various instruments is fascinating. An Art Institute of Chicago sound class visited this exhibit to explore intriguing sounds that emanated from contact with the instruments.

Those who were fortunate enough to participate in this UWRA trip will not soon forget the fascinating purpose, wide-ranging goals, and diversity of the sites we visited in one day! We extend appreciation and thanks to the planners and guides: Allen Liegel and Ted Collins.

Monthly reminders

Westside breakfast at Sofra, 7457 Elmwood Avenue, Middleton, 8:30, October 14, November 22, and December 12.

Eastside breakfast at Elie's, 4102 Monona Drive, Madison, 8:30, October 18, November 18, and December 15.

Reservations are not needed for either location. You are welcome regardless of where you live.

Fall 2016 University Roundtable series

Each semester, the University Roundtable features lunch programs with talks by members of the university community. These programs are open to members of the university community and their guests. All programs are in Varsity Hall in Union South from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please note that two of the sessions are not on the usual Wednesdays. Each luncheon costs \$10, and reservations can be made using the links above. For further details, please visit the University Roundtable page at acstaff.wisc.edu/roundtables.

On Friday, October 21, Patrick Sims, Vice Provost for Diversity & Climate and Chief Diversity Officer, will talk about the status of the Diversity Framework implementation. You can register at go.wisc.edu/0411ep.

On Wednesday, November 9, in conjunction with Shakespeare's "First Folio" exhibit at the Chazen Art Museum, Assistant Professor of English Joshua Calhoun will explore the making and the marketing of Shakespeare's legacy from 1616 through 2016. Register at go.wisc.edu/s4054d.

On Tuesday, December 13, Associate Professor of Art Lynda Barry will give a talk on DrawBridge, a cross-disciplinary, arts-based research method for problem solving through spontaneous drawing, writing, and collage. Register at go.wisc.edu/gm2073.

Help a senior or adult with a disability

by Megan Meyer, Volunteer Services Coordinator, Independent Living, Inc.

We coordinate a volunteer program that offers a wide range of opportunities in Dane County, which can be tailored to meet a volunteer's specific interests and availability. Our current needs include social visits, telephone calls, meal delivery, and household help. Volunteers are matched with one or two seniors in need on an ongoing basis. We also need a volunteer receptionist at our senior living community on Segoe Road. To volunteer, call 268-9641 or email mmeyer@independentlivinginc.org. Additional information is at IndependentLivingInc.org; at the site, click on "volunteers."

RSVP needs volunteers

by Diana Jost, Assistant Director, RSVP

RSVP of Dane County assists volunteers age 55+ with personalized volunteer placement services. RSVP partners with school districts and organizations around Dane County to help meet the needs of the community. For more information or to volunteer for any of these opportunities, please contact Andrea Beaster, Intergenerational Program Coordinator at 441-7894 or email Abeaster@rsvpdane.org. Volunteer opportunities exist for tutors in schools, computer buddies with elementary children, special projects volunteers, guest speakers, and restorative justice volunteers.

University League fall tour

by Judy Stang, President, University League

On Thursday, October 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., enjoy the colorful bluffs along the road traveling to Baraboo. We will have lunch at the new Driftless Glen restaurant on the Baraboo river (three menu choices) followed by a private tour of the meticulously restored French Baroque Al Ringling Theatre and a stop at Ski-Hi Apple Orchard. UWRA members are welcome if space is available. Contact Pat Feltskog, 238-9836, for reservations and menu selection. The cost is \$42.00.

Learn history at your leisure

What History Tells: George Mosse on European Cultural History, 1860-1918, Third Edition by William P. Tishler, Senior Media Specialist, Division of Continuing Studies, is now available for your online use. George L. Mosse, a legendary teacher, taught European history at UW-Madison for over 30 years. Listen to Professor Mosse's 1982 lectures at your own pace through this online course available October 4 through October 31; two lectures are posted each week. These archived recordings of Professor Mosse's have been digitalized and enhanced with images, videos, biographies, and supplemental readings. You will also receive a copy of his memoir, *Confronting History*, and have the opportunity to participate in online discussions. You can register online at go.wisc.edu/mosse. For additional information, contact Kim Seymour at 262-3731 or kimberly.seymour@wisc.edu.

The Sifter

<http://uwra.wisc.edu>

UW-Madison Retirement Assn

c/o Division of Continuing Studies

21 North Park Street, Room 7229

Madison, WI 53715-1218

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Moved or Moving?

The Sifter will not automatically be forwarded by the Postal Service. Please use email, snail mail, or the telephone to give us your new address so that you can continue to receive *The Sifter* on a regular basis.

UWRA Calendar

October 6	Morning program: Birds: the inside story
October 6	Luncheon program: 2016 Elections in Wisconsin and the Nation
October 13	Using the General Library System website
October 14	Breakfast at Sofra
October 18	Breakfast at Elie's
October 18	Cuba travelogue
October 19	Estate planning
October 26	Family history and genealogy
November 14	Morning program by APT artistic director, Brenda DeVita
November 14	Luncheon program on "Shakespeare's Books"
November 16	Federal tax: after the election
November 16	History and development of the internet
November 18	Breakfast at Elie's
November 22	Breakfast at Sofra

Note: Breakfasts at both Sofra and Elie's begin at 8:30, and no reservations are needed.