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THE SIFTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

UWRA NEWS

Candidates for UWRA Board of Directors Announced

BY ESTHER OLSON, CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee presents the following slate of candidates for the May election.



President: Tom Broman retired in 2017 after 30 years of service in the College of Letters and Science, Department of History of Science. He joined UWRA in 2017. Tom engaged in university service at many levels, including department chair, director of Science and

Technology Studies, faculty senator, and faculty representative to UWS and the Board of Regents. In retirement, Tom serves as codirector of the History Department's Wisconsin 101, a web-based, statewide public history project. Tom is completing a 3-year term on the UWRA Board as a faculty representative and chairs the UWRA Partnership & Engagement Committee.



President-Elect: Laurie Mayberry retired in 2019 as assistant vice provost, managing programs that served faculty, staff, and students. She established and directed the

Dual-Career Couple Assistance Program, coordinated faculty awards (national and campus-wide), and managed diversity programs. Laurie served on many shared governance (e.g. Assembly, Nominating) and campus-wide committees with an eye toward diversity and inclusion. She is completing a 3-year term as the academic staff representative on the UWRA Board and currently serves on the Retirement Opportunities and Partnership and Engagement committees. She is the *Book Marks* column coordinator for *The Sifter*.

Secretary: Jane Richard retired from the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty (OSoF) in the summer of 2022, after serving as the deputy secretary of the faculty for nine years. The OSoF is responsible for the Faculty Senate and about 30 shared governance committees. Before the OSoF, she was a librarian for 25 years at Wisconsin Library Services as a trainer/consultant and at the Wisconsin Historical Society as a catalog librarian. Jane joined UWRA upon retirement.



Board of Directors, 3-year Terms

Jordan Hanson (University Staff Rep) retired in August 2022 from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for University Relations. During her 15+



UWRA NEWS

Board Candidates, continued

years at UW–Madison, she held roles in the Office of Child Care and Family Resources, the Chancellor’s Office, and University Relations. She joined UWRA following retirement and looks forward to participating in the many opportunities available.

Cathy Middlecamp (Faculty Rep) retired in 2021 after 40+ years of service in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies (professor) and in the Department of Chemistry (director, Chemistry Learning Center). Her passion always was to teach, engage students in learning, reach out to those struggling with chemistry, and see students succeed in a wide variety of careers. Cathy joined UWRA to stay in contact with UW colleagues.



Kevin J. Niemi (Academic Staff Rep) retired in 2021 after 24 years with WISCIENCE (Wisconsin Institute for Science Education and Community Engagement), as an outreach and community engagement director / outreach program manager III. Currently, Kevin is active with the Wisconsin Society



of Science Teachers, serving as its chief financial officer since 2015. He is finishing a year as president of the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison and remains a member of their governing board. Kevin joined UWRA prior to retirement. ■

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Membership renewal kicks off!

BY SANDI HAASE

Are you wondering if your membership expires this year? You can find your renewal date in several places. The first is in the email you receive with the link to the digital edition of *The Sifter*. The second is on your member profile on UWRAmadison.org. If you subscribe to the print edition of *The Sifter*, your renewal date is on your mailing label. Additionally, both the email notice and your member profile indicate your current membership level. If your mailing label, email notice, or profile indicates 2023, it is time to renew!



UWRA has two special membership categories you may want to consider: Bargain and Life. Any member can take advantage of the bargain “six years for the price of five” rate and save the hassle and postage of renewing each year. Life memberships are also available if either you or your spouse/partner is receiving a Wisconsin Retirement System annuity.

You can renew faster and easier online! There are three renewal options:

- renew online and pay online
- renew online, create an invoice, and pay by check
- renew with mail-in printed renewal form and a check.

In spite of challenges, UWRA had a very successful year. You won’t want to miss the terrific seminars being planned for 2022–23. Your continued participation is extremely important to us and is very much appreciated.

A membership application/renewal form is included on p. 3 of this issue. Please renew your membership today and keep yourself on the mailing list so you do not miss any UWRA communications. ■

BREAKFAST AT ELIE'S CAFE

909 E. Broadway, Monona, WI

9:00–10:30 A.M. In-person gathering

TUESDAY, MAY 23

Join fellow UWRA members for monthly breakfast and lively conversation. No registration needed.

WRS, SWIB, ETF

Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants Annual Meeting

The Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants will host two separate annual meetings—virtually via Zoom—and all Wisconsin Retirement System retirees are invited to attend.



At the first meeting, set for Thursday, May 11, State of Wisconsin Investment Board executive director and chief investment officer Edwin Denson will discuss how the WRS is invested and protected for the future and will answer questions. Also speaking will be J. Michael Collins of the UW-Madison Center for Financial Security, School of Human Ecology, and La Follette School of Public Affairs. Collins will talk about trends in the economy, housing, health care, and related issues and a bit about his work with the Social Security Administration.



At the second session on Thursday, May 18, Department of Employee Trust Funds Secretary John Voelker will provide an update about the WRS and answer

audience questions about the system or bene-

fits. Following Secretary Voelker will be Dr. Ed Weisbart who is the national board secretary and Missouri chapter chair of Physicians for a National Health Program. His talk is “Medicare Advantage: What is it really and why should we care?”

Both sessions will be held via Zoom and run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration is free. To register, visit wicoa.org/2023conference.html. ■

✓ STILL TIME TO REGISTER

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT
May 10 Online Webinar
UWRAmadison.org/event-5041455

#UW-MADISON ON SOCIAL MEDIA
May 2 Online Webinar
UWRAmadison.org/event-5092539

FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

In lieu of registration fees for UWRA programs, donations are encouraged to the Open Seat Food Pantry that serves food-insecure UW students. The pantry is a project of ASM, Associated Students of Madison. 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. ■

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 <input type="checkbox"/> 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

TRAVEL

Old World Wisconsin Excursion on June 20

Travel together through time and experience the worlds of Wisconsin's past. UWRA is partnering with the Verona Senior Center to travel to Old World Wisconsin to experience the world of Wisconsin's early immigrants. Join us and step into the daily lives of the people who called this world home.

Old World Wisconsin is a living history park where the Wisconsin Historical Society and its costumed interpreters reveal more than a century of our state's history. The site includes 60 authentically restored historic homes, farms, stores, and workshops, many with period gardens. The most recent addition is the Brewhouse, where visitors can see brewers at work and sample the wares.

Participants will receive a token that will be redeemable for one Old World experience, such as making an iron hook at the blacksmith shop or a leather keychain at the shoemaker's shop.

The bus will depart from the Verona Senior Center with pick-up stops at West Towne Mall (Dave & Buster's, formerly Sears), and Dutch Mill Park and Ride (East lot). When registering, indicate your pick-up site. Seating is limited, so register today!

Schedule and Pick-up/Drop-off Points

- 9:00 a.m. Leave Verona Senior Center, 108 Paoli Street
- 9:15 a.m. Leave West Towne (near Dave & Buster's)
- 9:45 a.m. Leave Dutch Mill Park & Ride (East lot)
- 11:00 a.m. Arrive Old World Wisconsin
- 3:45 p.m. Depart Old World Wisconsin
- 5:00 p.m. Arrive Dutch Mill Park & Ride
- 5:30 p.m. Arrive West Towne Mall
- 5:45 p.m. Arrive Verona Senior Center



OLD WORLD WISCONSIN TRIP

Tuesday, June 20

9:00 A.M.–5:45 P.M. In Person

Registration Deadline: Noon, June 1

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5232862

Registration fee includes bus transportation, driver tip, admission fees, and lunch.

(You may also register by mail with a check. Print out the registration form on the online registration page.)

Questions? Contact the UWRA office at 608-262-0641.



Refund Policy

UWRA refunds an event fee if a participant cancels prior to the registration deadline. Refunds may be processed after the registration deadline, but only if a wait-listed registrant can attend. Refunds are made by check. ■

WEBINAR RECAP

Estate Planning Series, Session 3: Administration and Dissolution of Estate

BY JACK SORENSON, CO-CHAIR, AND KATHY ZWEIFEL, MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RETIREMENT

There are significant differences in the administration and dissolution of a will and a trust. Attorney Peter C. Osman skillfully and succinctly guided the UWRA audience through the commonalities and differences in the law governing these tools, and the obstacles to avoid. Further, we appreciated Osman stepping in on short notice to make this presentation when the original speaker became unavailable.

“Probate” is the public court process by which the terms of a will are proved valid or invalid, and by which property is transferred after a property owner’s death. A personal representative may be recommended by the deceased, but appointment is not automatically approved, as interested parties may challenge the assignment. If the will is contested, the process can be lengthy, several years or more.

A trust is managed by a trustee, who is named by the principal, acts as legal title holder, and oversees the distribution of assets after the death of the principal according to their wishes. The courts and public are normally not involved in the dissolution of a trust.

The responsibilities of a personal representative and a trustee are numerous and can require expert help. The basic functions include legal procedures, asset management, identifying and paying creditors, filing required tax returns, and making final distributions to beneficiaries.

In his presentation, Osman added many guidelines on such topics as who should serve as trustee or personal representative; common issues in estate settlement; expected costs of estate administration; and, fallout from poorly administered plans. If you are considering establishing a will or a trust and are not sure what the differences are, this is an

excellent resource to start the process. ■

Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2022–23 Jan–Jun to find a video and a PDF of this presentation.

WEBINAR RECAP

What’s Happened to the Republican Party: Reagan through Trump Years

BY TOM EGGERT, MEMBER, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

David Canon from the UW Political Science Department discussed the evolution of the Republican Party, focusing specifically on identification of individuals as Republicans. One note of special interest: Canon refuted the notion that the number of Republican voters is declining, reminding us of the record turnout for the 2020 election.



Canon also reminded us of several factions in the current Republican party, ranging from the Populist Right to the Ambivalent Right. There is also a contingent referred to as the Faith and Flag Conservatives who are most identified with not accepting the divide between church and state. Looking specifically at the Trump presidency, Canon explained how Donald Trump broke from Republican orthodoxy in his isolationism and disdain for allies’ positions, as well as in his extreme anti-immigration policies. His biggest break from traditional Republican perspectives is his insistence on the Big Lie and on purported failures in the election system.

According to Canon, the partisan warfare about voting is a relatively recent phenomenon. Those that study voting trends think that both Republicans and Democrats can be adversely affected when Republicans pass laws making it more difficult to vote. ■

Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2022–23 Jan–Jun to find a video and a PDF of this presentation.

MEET A UWRA MEMBER

Purging, Organizing, Sorting!

BY DONNA HALLERAN, UWRA MEMBER



I have been with the University in one way or another since 1978. I began as a student, earning a BA in economics and an MS in business. My first job after graduation was with the UW, and I never left the

university for the remainder of my 36-year career. I started in Internal Audit, moved to Accounting Services, then to Finance and budget director for Facilities, Planning, and Management (FP&M). I finished my career as director of Auxiliary Operations Analysis. Even after retirement two years ago, I have maintained that university connection, first as a consultant with UW Press and now as part-time business manager for Friends of the Arboretum (FOA). My job at FOA is keeping me connected with fellow UW retirees who serve as volunteers or attend our monthly luncheon-lectures.

My favorite role, though, is grandmother to our granddaughter, Elena, who will turn two in May. We have the privilege of watching her one day each week. If you want to stay young and active, spend a day with a toddler!

Retirement has finally given me a chance to work on the big projects I've put off for years: home upgrades, remodeling, and general cleaning out of the "stuff" we no longer need. Two special projects are related to my two hobbies—photography and cooking.

My biggest project is purging, organizing, sorting, scanning, and storing thousands of photos and videos of family, friends, and travels. Some are our

most precious memories, and others are not worth keeping. Of course, I love adding new photos and videos to the mix, especially of our granddaughter.

My second big project is organizing recipes into a family cookbook. In addition to our family favorites, I've collected many recipes over the years with the plan to "someday" give them a try. "Someday" is finally here, and I've tried out quite a variety of the recipes. I'm enjoying experimenting with them and have discovered a few gems.

My husband Scott and I also love to travel, particularly in the outdoors. Since I retired, we've been to Mt. Rainier, Yellowstone, and Grand Tetons national parks. Our next trip will be to Kings Canyon and Sequoia national parks in California. We are also on a mission to visit every Wisconsin state park and have already been to almost all in the southern half of the state. When Scott retires, we are looking forward to longer trips, such as Alaska and Europe. The top of my bucket list is a road trip on the Lake Superior Circle Tour. ■

March 1–31, 2023

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth Kudsk, *Surgery*
Debra Rihn, *UWHC, East*
Madison Hospital

Roger Schultz, *Public*
Health
Kathleen Schultz

DID YOU KNOW?

There are two ways to find and view videos of UWRA recorded seminars. In addition to finding the recording on the UWRA website—UWRAmadison.org / Resources / Presentations / then the date and title—you can also go directly to the UWRA YouTube channel at youtube.com/@uwramadison8563/videos. Videos dating back to 2020 are posted. ■

{ The UWRA is your network in retirement! }

ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

Spiritual, Family, and Community Service

BY JACOB (JAKE) BLASCZYK, UWRA MEMBER



My highlighted retirement activities fall into three categories: spiritual, family, and community service.

Meditation, integrating Buddha's teachings with Unitarian Universalism, and Qigong, is the first category. With my wife, Ann, and our

daughter, Emily, I returned to Madison in 1986 for a School of Education post directing two statewide school evaluation organizations. In 1990, we joined the First Unitarian Society (FUS), and I soon took a FUS meditation course. My now-daily meditation practice began. During retirement, I learned more about Buddhism and meditation through online courses, reading, and local groups. I regularly attend meditation retreats, many sponsored by Madison Insight Meditation Group madisonmeditation.org.

Later, FUS courses introduced me to Qigong, part of traditional Chinese medicine. Slow movements optimize energy within the body, mind, and universe. I do Qigong daily, deepened by lessons from Steve Spiro at the Madison Tai Chi Center. Buddhism, meditation, and Qigong have deepened my spirituality while providing insights about my life. Other benefits are new friends, refuge from turbulent times, and exercise.

I also am my family's historian. After retiring, Ann and I interviewed my nine living siblings. I created 10 CDs of stories for a family reunion. These are available at the Wisconsin Historical Society. At the height of the pandemic, I kept a month-long daily journal for WHS.

My community service expanded as well. I lead

volunteers caring for a prairie garden on the Southwest Commuter Path. See my blog, gardensprospect.blogspot.com. During 2021–2022, I co-led volunteers doing neighborhood stormwater education, funded in part by the UW Arboretum. We installed rain gardens at Wingra School and offered a Vilas Park event with Ho Chunk storyteller Andi Cloud and 25 organizations sharing stormwater practices. We hosted two neighborhood water walks, one co-sponsored with the Catholic Multicultural Center. Sometimes on my daily walks, I am on the UW Campus surrounded by students. I sense Impermanence, a Buddhist principle, while being grateful that I am still on campus as an alumnus and a retiree. ■

WEBINAR RECAP

Nuclear Power & Climate Change

BY TOM EGGERT, MEMBER, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

Richard Steeves (emeritus, UW Medical School) and Tom Eggert (emeritus, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies), shared perspectives on the future role of nuclear power. Both agreed that the threat of climate change makes finding alternatives to carbon-based fuels (coal, oil, petroleum) extremely important, but they disagreed on whether nuclear reactors should be part of the solution. Steeves argued that nuclear reactors are safe, efficient, and carbon-free. Eggert argued that nuclear technology is very expensive and time-consuming. He noted that only one new nuclear reactor was built in the last 30 years, and that reactor (scheduled to start generating electricity in 2023) is six years late and \$25 billion dollars over budget. Steeves countered that newer nuclear technology will be cheaper and quicker to implement, but Eggert responded that, of 70 distinct designs for new nuclear reactors, there is still no agreement on which one holds the most promise. ■

Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2022–23 Jan–Jun to find a video and a PDF of this presentation.

WELLNESS MATTERS

Tick Tock: It's Tick Time!



BY DAVID M. DECI MD, UWRA MEMBER

April showers bring May flowers and hordes of ticks! Wisconsin has the distinction of being an epicenter for Lyme Disease. As we enjoy the outdoors again, let's review some facts about ticks and how we might protect against the diseases they carry.

Ticks are 8-legged arachnids (like spiders and mites). They feed on the blood of host animals and subsequently can be transported indoors by humans and pets. Ticks can carry a variety of diseases that affect humans including anaplasmosis, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Here we will focus on Lyme Disease.

Lyme Disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of the black-legged deer tick. Because of this species' tiny size (2–5 mm) and painless bite, many attachments to our bodies can go undetected for hours to days. The risk of infection increases with prolonged attachment and engorgement of the tick with blood.

Deer ticks prefer forested or brushy environments such as buckthorn thickets. Deer and mice play a role in perpetuating their life cycle. Although deer ticks are found throughout the Wisconsin, the greatest incidence occurs north and west of a line from La Crosse to Green Bay. If you spend time outdoors in the North Woods, talk with your physician about a preventive prescription for doxycycline that can be taken if infection is likely.

The greatest tick activity occurs during the summer; however, adult ticks begin to emerge when temperatures exceed 40° F. A Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Resources study in 2016–2017 found that, on average, 15–20% of ticks collected carried the bacterium responsible for Lyme Disease. Recent CDC estimates indicate that there are 20,000–40,000 cases of Lyme Disease in Wisconsin per year. Fortunately, most cases are mild or go undetected.

Acute symptoms of Lyme Disease infection include headache, muscle and joint aches, fever, and fatigue. A specific rash called *erythema migrans* occurs in 70–80% of people infected and occurs within days to weeks of a bite. It begins as a flat, circular, red rash that rapidly enlarges and may appear in areas away from the tick attachment. Typically, it has a “bull's-eye” look.

If you experience a flu-like illness during the summer, especially with a rash, seek prompt medical evaluation. The illness responds well to a variety of antibiotics. Recovery does not afford immunity, however; individuals can contract the disease again with new exposure. Chronic Lyme Disease is now recognized as an important cause of cardiac, neurologic, and joint problems.

Prevention of exposure to ticks is key to reducing your risk of disease:

- Liberally use insect repellants containing 20% or more of DEET.
- Avoid tick-infested areas.
- Wear long-sleeved, light-colored shirts and long pants. Tuck pants legs into socks to serve as a barrier to tick attachment.
- Shower promptly after being outdoors.
- Perform daily tick checks. Inspect all areas, including the scalp. Use a mirror to view the back and genital regions.
- Tumble-dry clothing on high heat for at least 10 minutes to kill ticks that may have been carried into your home.
- Use tick collars on your dogs and cats.

Remove ticks immediately. Use fine-pointed tweezers; pull straight up with a slow, steady motion. Avoid twisting movements that can leave the mouthparts behind. Clean the bite with rubbing alcohol or with soap and water.

The UW Department of Entomology offers a free "Tick App" available from the App Store or Google Play. It can help visually identify types of ticks and has information on prevention measures. ■

David M. Deci is a retired family physician and a member of UWRA.

WEBINAR RECAP

Assistive Technology: Access to Independence

BY JIM VANNES, MEMBER, ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Access to Independence (accesstoind.org) is a nonprofit agency serving Dane, Dodge, Columbia, and Green counties. Its services are free and its definition of disability is very broad. Access staff provide information, resources, and referrals to anyone in the community on topics including housing, transportation, community support, assistive technology loans, and more. They can help clients learn to cope with a disability, develop new skills for independent living, and practice self-advocacy.

Skills training can include budgeting, cooking, and organization. Access transition services support choice between community and assisted living, as well as youth with disabilities leaving secondary school. They also offer advocacy support for disability rights. Loan programs are available to per-

sons with a disability and can be used for assistive technology, home modification, vehicle adaptations, or accommodations for employment. More than 1000 assistive technology items that are free to try, including wheelchairs, walkers, canes, amplified phones, kitchen tools, and more. See the full list at wisconsinat4all.com.

The Wisconsin Council for the Blind & Visually Impaired (wcblind.org/) offers advocacy, vision services, and education to empower Wisconsinites with vision loss. Strategies for using technology and skills to improve access include task lighting, magnification, touch cues, enhanced contrast, and sound. Newer smart phones and tablets include many of these features. The complete catalog of access technology is available at store.wcblind.org/store.

Visit the UWRA website (UWRAmadison.org) then select Resources/Presentations/2022-23 Jan-Jun to find a video and a PDF of this presentation.

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 black-and-white *print edition*, now is the time to do so. The annual print edition subscription is \$15, which covers the cost of printing and mailing the ten issues (September 2023–June 2024). 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. Please note that multiple-year subscriptions are not available. ■

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.

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| Email | | |

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Published Monthly From September to June

PRINT EDITION SUBSCRIPTION COST \$15 ANNUALLY

REFLECTIONS

Make Way for Tourists!

BY MARY BARNARD RAY

On a cruise last February, I learned once again that getting to a destination can be more entertaining than the destination itself. And again, it was experience with local drivers there that proved exciting. Our destinations this time were locations in the mountains of the islands around the South China Sea—in Indonesia and the Philippines. In each case, we were on the first tourist cruise to reach the



location in three years, since before COVID. The welcome we received at each location was heartwarming; tourist dollars were flowing in again at last! Despite this similarity, the two countries differ substantially, and that difference appeared in approaches to getting

tourists from point A to point B.

Our Indonesian guides were skilled at improvisation and making do with what was available. For example, we had to ride in four-wheel drives to reach the access point to Mt. Bromo, an active volcano on Java. After the lapse in tourist dollars, finding enough vehicles must have proven a bit challenging. Our vehicle was accessed from only one-half of the back, since one door didn't work. This required some tricky twisting on my part, and I am embarrassed to admit that I got stuck getting out the last time and needed assistance!

The driver, who either spoke no English (or pretended not to), was young, skilled, and impatient. And savvy—the speedometer indicator had been removed from the dial, so we couldn't comment on that point! He passed slower drivers, wove skillfully between the ubiquitous scooters on the road, and just managed to dodge any pedestrians by the wayside. When we reached our next stop, where we transferred to riding ponies, we were confident that the most challenging part of the journey was behind us.

The Filipinos we encountered took a different approach when our tour needed to get through Manila traffic and up a busy two-lane road to reach the smallest volcano in the world at Tagatay. The trip would take up all the time we had in the port, so there was no leeway for traffic delays.

Enter the Philippine motorcycle patrol, with two young-but-experienced motorcycle cops assisted by occasional patrol cars. Never have I experienced being in the highest priority vehicle on



the road. Did we face a red light? Never mind, the police stopped traffic and our enormous bus glided through the intersection. Was the traffic backed up going our direction? No problem, the motorcycle police would just drive toward oncoming traffic, waving them aside onto the shoulder or walkway so that we could travel in the oncoming lane until we passed the backup. Did the road suddenly clear up on the right side? Well, the police would just wave us over to the right and we would swerve into that lane. Drive on the shoulder? That was an option too. Who knew you could slalom in a bus on a busy road? Just to keep us from getting comfortable with this swerving ride, every now and then a pushcart vendor or pedestrian would emerge through the stopped traffic into our path, causing the bus driver to slam on the brakes. It was better than an amusement park ride, and much scarier!

When we reached the destination—a posh resort overlooking the little hill of a volcano in the middle of a lake—we were able to catch our breath. At lunch, we were even lucky enough to seat ourselves with the two motorcycle cops, so we asked them about their work. Escorting VIPs was their favorite assignment! Apparently driving toward oncoming traffic while waving for attention was as exciting for them as it was for us. We admired the serene view of the little volcano, took a deep breath, and boarded the bus for the return trip. ■

BOOK MARKS

Parting the Waters

REVIEWED BY KENNETH SHAPIRO, UWRA MEMBER

P*arting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63* by Taylor Branch (Simon & Schuster) is the first in a trilogy about the early civil rights movement. It conveys the bravery of protesters facing brutal opposition. It reveals the competition and cooperation among Black leaders and their organizations (NAACP, SCLC, SNCC); the political balancing act attempted by the Kennedys in the face of repeated calls for action by King and others; and the pernicious role of the FBI hunting for communists and homosexuals in the movement.

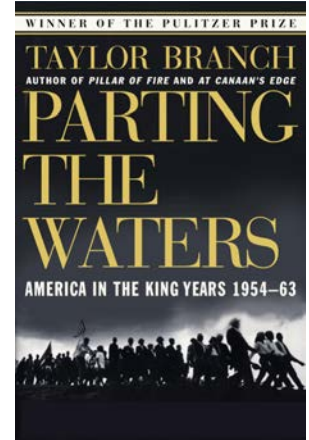
The focus of the book is on Martin Luther King, Jr., and the South, especially Alabama, but it also covers other key actors and broader regional and national context. It details the meteoric rise of MLK, fresh from his Boston University Ph.D. and just a year into his first pastor job in 1955 when Rosa Parks was arrested. King was thrust into leadership of the Montgomery bus boycott. The book captures the power of King’s oratory and his skill and strength sustaining the boycott for over a year despite bombings and arrests. The author brings us up short with this: “He was twenty-six and had not quite twelve years and four months to live.”

The reader gets much more than Wikipedia bullet points. We listen in on conversations, meetings, and negotiations across the South and in Washington, D.C. We see the training and insistence on nonviolence. We witness the terror of freedom

riders escaping fire-bombed buses only to be beaten by pipe-wielding White crowds; four little girls in a Birmingham church basement, all dressed in white, excitedly waiting to lead services on Annual Youth Day but instead killed by a bomb; students sitting at lunch counters being beaten by White crowds as police just looked on. The accounts of courage in the face of savagery often left me shaking my head. Why did protesters come forward again and again to face enraged White crowds? Why were those Whites enraged to the point of murder and maiming? And how much remains?

The enormous detail marshalled by the author is put to good use, giving life to the people and events of the movement. At some points it becomes a compulsive page-turner. But all that detail is also a shortcoming. With so many people introduced, it was hard to remember who was who. The book ends in 1963, with John Kennedy’s assassination, five years before King was murdered.

Taylor Branch received the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1989 and the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1988 for *Parting the Waters*. ■



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

■ UW-Madison Retirement Association Calendar Dates ■

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

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

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| • Tuesday, May 2 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: #UW-Madison on Social Media (V) |
| • Tuesday, May 9 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Walking Tour: Indian Mounds Guided Walk (IP) |
| • Wednesday, May 10 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: The Inflation Reduction Act, for Homeowners (V) |
| • Thursday, May 18 | 4:00–5:30 P.M. | UWRA Annual Meeting & Member Reception (IP) |
| • Tuesday, May 23 | 9:00–10:30 A.M. | UWRA Monthly Breakfast at Elie’s Cafe (IP) |
| • Tuesday, June 20 | 9:00 A.M.–5:45 P.M. | Old World Wisconsin Excursion (IP) |

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

THE SIFTER

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