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THE SIFTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY WEBINAR

AI, Part 1: Toward a Better Understanding of Language Modeling and Reasoning

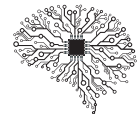
BY MILLARD SUSMAN, MEMBER, ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Over the past few years, artificial intelligence (AI) researchers have had phenomenal success in developing systems, including ChatGPT and GPT-4, that are capable of understanding and writing natural language. This has been achieved by exposing specialized computer systems (large language models, or LLMs) to vast quantities of written text. While LLMs have been booming, concerns about their reliability, especially in complex, unforeseen scenarios, have also arisen.

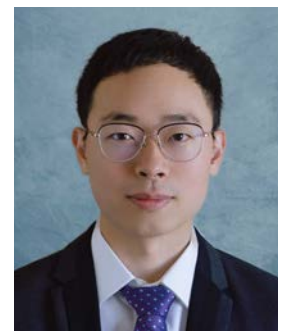
Join us for a discussion toward a better understanding of AI with assistant professor Junjie Hu. He will discuss several research questions including how LLMs learn transferable language features, and how LLMs can be prompted to generate reliable answers to complex language questions. Hu will discuss his lab's ongoing work on LLMs' multi-step reasoning capability and share some initial findings.

If you have preliminary questions for the speaker, please send them to program coordinator Millard Susman at msusman@wisc.edu by Thursday, October 19. ■

This is the first webinar in a two-part series on AI (artificial intelligence).



Junjie Hu is an assistant professor with appointments in the Department of Biostatistics, Department of Computer Science, and the Data Science Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned his Ph.D. at the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. Hu has a broad interest in natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning. His research goal is to build robust, intelligent systems that evolve with changes in the environment and interact with people speaking varied languages.



LANGUAGE MODELING AND REASONING
Thursday, October 26
 2:00-4:00 P.M. Online Webinar
Registration Deadline: October 23
 Advance registration is required. Register online at:
UWRAmadison.org/event-5293284

Online registration for UWRA Zoom webinars is easy, but members may also email the UWRA office at retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu or call 608-262-0641 to register for events. Webinar links and call information are included in registration confirmations and reminders emailed to registrants 7 and 2 days prior to events.

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Closing the Book ...

BY SANDI HAASE

It is with mixed emotions sprinkled with sadness that I write my last message from the executive director's desk. Serving as the UWRA executive director for the last six and a half years has been the best volunteer position ever, but it is now time to officially retire, effective Saturday, September 30.



During my tenure, I reconnected with former colleagues and met so many other UWRA members with whom I had not crossed paths during my 43-year campus career. I was able to create, document, and implement many processes that improved services to our members. I enjoyed working with so many members toward common goals. UWRA is truly a network in retirement!

Leaving this role has given me the chance to reflect on my journey. I am very proud that during my term of office the UWRA did not miss a beat and was able to continue our excellent slate of activities during the three years of COVID. UWRA was able to align its operations with mandated COVID protocols and guidelines to resume normal operations within five weeks using WebEX and Zoom to conduct business and connect with the members. This was new technology for all of us. We learned together as we navigated a new world!

When I assumed this role, I was challenged by the Board to bring the UWRA into the 21st century: "take us from a paper-driven association to a technology-driven association." Perhaps the most significant accomplishment of my tenure has been the selection and implementation of a comprehensive member management software package (Wild Apricot by Personify). Brought to production in just 5 months, it provided a "self-serve" portal for members to manage their own UWRA profiles, sign up and, if appropriate, process payments for

UWRA-sponsored events and membership renewals. It also provides the tools to create and manage the UWRA website and organize how information is displayed to our users, including members, volunteers, and potential members.

Creating and documenting administrative and program processes and procedures has been another accomplishment that has had an enormous impact. No longer does the Association need to rely on individual memories, "we've always done it this way" practices, or possibly outdated practices. These documents provide a solid basis and framework for the Association to build upon and go forward. They can be found on the UWRA website under "Organizational Documents."

My heartfelt thanks to each and every member!

This past July, it was my pleasure to welcome delegates from thirteen Big10 institution to Madison for the 2023 Big10 Retiree Association Annual Conference. This was the culmination of more than two years of planning and preparation. From the evaluations, the meeting was deemed a success and enjoyed by our guests.

My primary focus throughout my tenure has always been "YOU the members." I have always put your interests at the forefront of any decision or recommendation. Without you and your continued support, UWRA would not exist. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every member for your contribution (big or small) in making UWRA a great and enviable association!

As I close the book on this chapter, I sincerely hope that my contributions will serve as a base for our Association to soar into the future. It has been my privilege and honor to serve as the third UWRA executive director.

I recently read that, "It's the people we meet along the way who help us appreciate the journey." Thank you, UWRA members, for being a part of my journey.

Warmest regards!—Sandi ■

NEW ON BOARD

Retirement Is Highly Recommended!

BY KEVIN NIEMI, UWRA BOARD MEMBER

I hope everyone agrees with this headline. I am thoroughly enjoying almost all aspects of my retirement. After almost 25 years with UW-Madison from 1996 to 2021, I was glad to retire. COVID made the decision quite easy. I spent those years primarily developing and offering professional development opportunities in science to K-12 teachers. It was a serendipitous route to these professional experiences but extremely rewarding.

I realized during my postdoctoral years in biochemistry here at UW-Madison that I enjoyed teaching even more than research. I spent a couple of years at Grinnell College in Iowa teaching undergraduates and loved the liberal arts environment. I returned to Madison to start the education program at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. This was a reconnection with the informal education community, as I spent time prior to my graduate career in the education department at the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley. It was there that I met my wife, Karen Grikstas, who was a zookeeper. We have been married for 39 years now. I was hired by the Center for Biology Education in 1996 and built my career from there. I ended my career in the same unit but with a different name: Wisconsin Institute for Science Education and Community Engagement, or WISCIENCE.

Working with teachers is great, and I continue to do so in retirement. I am the chief financial officer for the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers and have had this role for nearly ten years. It keeps me connected. I also continue to teach the Advanced Placement Summer Institute in Biology for the School of Education, which I started while working at WISCIENCE—again, keeping me connected to teachers.

My wife and I have resided in the Cambridge area for more than 20 years on our hobby farm. We are down to 13 chickens, two German Shepherd dogs, and two cats. At one time we also had four horses



and more than 20 chickens. We (my wife primarily) have raised many litters of dogs. When I first met Karen, she had 3 GSDs, and I knew it was a central part of her life. Karen continues to train our dogs in tracking, rally, agility, and, most important, obedience. Additionally, I keep busy with golf during the summer and bowling the other 3 seasons. I am always looking to golf with new friends so give me a holler if it fits your retirement schedule!

You can surmise that I have a lot to keep me busy in retirement, including joining the UWRA Board of Directors. I do miss my everyday interactions with colleagues, so that is my only regret in retiring. I believe UWRA is a great vehicle to maintain social ties with colleagues and to also meet and make new friends. My advice to all of you is to seriously consider attending UWRA events as well as considering the myriad volunteer opportunities that UWRA organizes. UWRA certainly fills a void in my post-work life! ■

BREAKFAST AT ELIE'S CAFE

909 E. Broadway, Monona, WI

9:00–10:30 A.M. In-person gathering

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

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



NEW ON BOARD

Time for Volunteering and Hobbies

BY JORDAN HANSON, UWRA BOARD MEMBER

I retired with emeritus status in August 2022 from UW–Madison as the executive assistant to the vice chancellor for University Relations. I enjoyed more than 15 years on campus working in various roles in the Office of Child Care and Family Resources, the Chancellor’s Office, and University Relations. I joined the UW–Madison Retirement Association in 2022 and look forward to participating in the many opportunities available, including service on the Board of Directors.

As executive assistant to the vice chancellor for University Relations, my responsibilities were many, but I found great satisfaction in multiple remodeling projects and especially in the creation of the UW–Madison South Madison Partnership space on South Park Street.

Originally from Missouri, I lived in Boston for several years after college before moving to Madison. I now live in Fitchburg with my husband, Jeff, and two Morkies (Maltese/Yorkshire terrier mix) named Snickers and Scout. I have two adult children—a son who lives in Madison and a daughter who lives in Nashville.



On a recent vacation in Maui, Jordan tried her hand at blowing glass. She was surprised at how much of the process she was allowed to do. She helped make this fish!

In retirement, I’ve volunteered at UW–Madison’s Tandem Press. I appreciate the artwork created there; collecting and admiring art are among my passions. I also greatly value time spent with family and friends. My hobbies include gardening, reading, planning travel around the United States and internationally, taking a wide variety of classes, and staying fit by exercising with a great community of friends. ■



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

IT'S YOUR CHOICE: HEALTH INSURANCE

Tuesday, October 10

10:00 A.M.–NOON Online Webinar

Registration Deadline: October 6

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5340636

TASTE OF GREEN COUNTY EXCURSION

Wednesday, October 25

Registration Deadline: October 16

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5375939



RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES WEBINAR

Neurological Disorders as We Age

BY MARY BETH PLANE, MEMBER, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE



Are you aware of the most common neurological disorders that occur as we age? Are you, or important people in your life, affected by

dementia, Parkinson’s disease, essential tremor, stroke, or neuropathy? Are you wondering if there are steps you can take to prevent or minimize neurological issues?

Please join us for a presentation by Dr. Ali Zandieh, clinical assistant professor in the UW–Madison Department of Neurology. He will speak about the symptoms, causes, and treatment of these disorders, the effects of which can range from simple annoyance to life-changing or life-ending consequences. Zandieh will also speak about the neurological clinical trial research he is conducting in collaboration with other investigators at UW.



If there are additional neurological issues you would like to hear more about, or if you have preliminary questions for the speaker, please send questions to program coordinator Mary Beth Plane at marybethplane@yahoo.com by October 25. ■

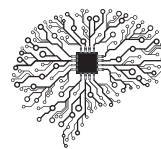
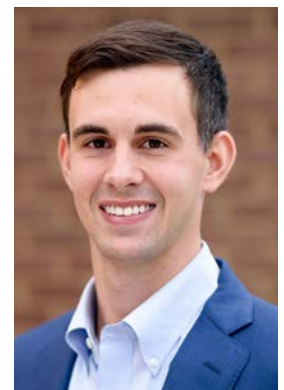
ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY WEBINAR

AI, Part 2: Artificial Intelligence from Interaction and Reward

BY MILLARD SUSMAN, MEMBER, ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Creating intelligent agents that learn to accomplish goals from their world experience is at the heart of the field of artificial intelligence. Like humans and animals, such agents must be able to explore their world, identify actions that lead to success, and over time become more proficient at reaching their goals. Reinforcement learning is the area of artificial intelligence research that seeks to build this kind of learning agent.

Please join us to hear Josiah Hanna, assistant professor in the Computer Sciences Department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He will explain reinforcement learning, its current use in real world applications, and ongoing research in his lab at UW–Madison that aims to make reinforcement learning a broadly applicable method for creating intelligent agents in the real world.



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

If you have preliminary questions for the speaker, please send to program coordinator Millard Susman at msusman@wisc.edu by Wednesday, November 1. ■

NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AS WE AGE

Thursday, November 2

10:00 A.M–NOON Online Webinar

Registration Deadline: October 27

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5308782

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FROM INTERACTION AND REWARD

Thursday, November 9

2:00–4:00 P.M. Online Webinar

Registration Deadline: November 3

Advance registration is required. Register online at:

UWRAmadison.org/event-5293289

MEET A UWRA MEMBER

The Call of Norway

BY PEGGY HAGER

I grew up in Milwaukee as a child of immigrants. An early childhood trip to Germany introduced me to international travel and my extended family. I intended to teach German after college. While studying abroad, I met a Norwegian and realized I would be spending a lot of time in Norway. We moved to Norway, where I studied the Norwegian language intensively and continued graduate work in Norwegian.

In 2020, I retired from the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic after teaching Norwegian language for twenty years. Due to COVID, we were quite isolated the first year, but I was giddy with the excitement of being able to learn new things (mostly virtually) and to waste a little time. The most challenging thing for me initially was telling myself to slow down. I have time to explore new interests now.

In the last two years, we have been able to take several trips abroad, but what we most enjoy is our daily life. Our favorite part of retirement is what we enthusiastically call "Holy Time." We still get up early, but now we can enjoy a book (for me), the New York Times (for my husband), and linger over coffee and conversation. It is a treat we look forward to most days and never tire of.

I enjoy having more time to garden and be active. We hike, bike, or kayak in the summer and ski cross-country in the winter. The first autumn of the pandemic, my husband and I discovered the Ice Age trails near Madison and have now enjoyed exploring the trails farther afield.

For the first time in thirty years, I will spend this fall in Norway. Our trips to Norway took place annually, but only in the summer months during teaching breaks. Nature and outdoor life play a

central role in Norwegian culture. Autumn was always my favorite season in Norway, and we plan to hike, gather blueberries and wild mushrooms, and visit friends and family. ■



August 1–31, 2023

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ruth Benedict

Linda Foley, *UW Police Department*

Mary Hegg, *Wisconsin Center for Education Research*

Kenneth Owens,
Facilities Planning & Management

Hans Verick

DID YOU KNOW?

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

{ The UWRA is your network in retirement! }

ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

A Passion for Art Thrives in Retirement

BY JAN RICHARDSON, UWRA MEMBER

My lifelong passion for art was triggered when I was 13 years old by an uncle who came to live with us for six weeks. A commercial artist and pilot, he introduced us to smoking, whiskey, playing chess, flying, and oil painting. What I took from that whirlwind experience was a desire to become an artist and a pilot, but to leave the whiskey and smoking behind!

I am the oldest of five daughters. I grew up in Columbus, Ohio, where I studied art education at The Ohio State University. After graduation, I lived in Bloomington, Ind., for five years, and in 1976 moved to Madison with my husband.

My career took an unexpected direction for financial reasons, and I obtained a master's degree in public policy and administration from UW-Madison. I worked in the public sector for 34 years. Shortly after retiring 11 years ago, I finally got back into my first interest: creating art. My other interests include history, genealogy, gardening, swimming, and dancing.



While I have focused on portraiture, I also have done still lifes, landscapes, and plein air painting. I like to paint with oil but have experimented with gouache and watercolors as well as pastels. I spent much of the time during the COVID pandemic painting from historical photos. However, most of my paintings are from live models during Atwood Atelier open studio sessions.

I have a studio within Ground Floor Studios Artists' Cooperative on Winnebago Street in Madison, which is open by appointment and on Gallery

Night. (The next one is Friday, November 3, sponsored by Madison Museum of Contemporary Art.)

For more information, visit janrichardsonart.com or [instagram.com/jlrichardsonart](https://www.instagram.com/jlrichardsonart). ■



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Join a UWRA Committee

UWRA has six committees that plan programs and invite your participation. Please email retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu to inquire about joining a committee that matches your interests.

Electronic Technology Assists members in staying abreast of changing technologies and their impacts. Offer seminars and tech clinics. Meets first Thursday, September–May, 1:30–3:00 PM.

Financial Matters in Retirement Organizes programs on ETF benefits, taxes, trusts & wills, social security, Medicare, insurance, and more. Meets first Friday, September–May, 10 A.M.–Noon.

Travel Researches and organizes excursions to, and virtual presentations on, interesting historical, educational, and fun sites. Meets 1–2 times per semester, no set time.

Luncheons & Receptions Organizes 2–3 events with speakers from the university or community, including the UWRA annual member meeting. Meets as needed.

Retirement Opportunities Offers a wide variety of programs on such topics as aging, environment, politics, social justice, history and culture, and happenings at UW-Madison. Meets fourth Monday, September–May, 10 A.M.–Noon.

Partnership and Engagement Fosters relationships with other like-minded organizations, such as the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association, UW-Madison, and other Big 10 Retirement Associations. Meets as needed. ■

PARTNERS IN GIVING

Be Part of Something Bigger

BY GIANNA TAYLOR, UNIVERSITY COMBINED CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Each fall, UW–Madison participates in the annual Partners in Giving (PinG) campaign, an expression of the Wisconsin traditions of volunteerism and generosity that are a staple of our campus spirit. The UWRA community continues to show their Badger spirit each year by caring for our community through charitable giving. Over the past 51 years, the campaign has collectively raised more than \$87 million, including nearly \$2 million last year.

This year, our campaign invites you to “Be Part of Something Bigger”—leaning into the strength and inspiration that comes from being part of a community of individuals who join to support our neighbors. The 500+ organizations represented in the PinG campaign serve a wide range of causes, local and beyond, allowing you to direct your donation to issues you most care about. Your gift to the campaign, whether \$1 per month or \$10, makes a difference, both in support of the charities you choose and by adding your voice to our collective efforts to make the world a better place. We hope you will once again unite with UW–Madison to support Partners in Giving.

Continuing this year, we invite you to a series of virtual Charity Lunch & Learns, occurring weekly from October 10 through December 5. Join in from the comfort of your home to hear from charities who are making an impact in areas such as disability and veterans services, environmental and animal conservation, housing and shelter, and more! Register now: giving.wi.gov/charities/

Contributions are welcomed October 9 through May 14, 2024. Visit giving.wi.gov/ for more resources or to donate. You can also visit giving.wi.gov/about-us/giving-in-retirement/ to sign up for campaign information to be sent to your email or home address. To view all options for giving, visit giving.wi.gov/options-for-giving/.

Badgers have long found shared purpose in the



Wisconsin Idea—the unwavering belief that the beneficent influence of the university should stretch far beyond the boundaries of our campus. Your participation in Partners in Giving is one way to continue that tradition of caring and impact. We know that retirees give amply of their time, talents, and dollars to PinG and many other causes. We want to acknowledge and celebrate the numerous ways our UW–Madison retirees contribute to the wider community. Through your continued generosity and support, we can all “Be Part of Something Bigger!” ■



2023 Diversity Forum on Campus

The UW–Madison Diversity Forum will take place November 14–15, 2023, both online and in person at Union South, 1308 W. Dayton St. The theme for the 2023 conference will be “Bridging the Divide: Realizing Belonging while Engaging Difference,” in an effort to understand how we embrace shared problem-solving and engage in constructive dialogue across a broad range of differences, from political to cultural to religious and more, to create living and learning communities characterized by a sense of inclusion and belonging. More information about speakers, agenda, and registration will be posted at diversityforum.wisc.edu. ■

REFLECTIONS

The Scrapy Roads of Home

BY MARY BARNARD RAY

I've lived in Wisconsin for over forty years now, but there's something about the foothills of the Ozarks and the Missouri River valley that still says "home." Even though the Driftless Area of Wisconsin is somewhat similar, there is a distinct difference for me. This last summer, I was wondering why that was, so I paid attention when



I traveled back for the annual cousin reunion. That's when I noticed the scrappiness of my home terrain. While the Driftless Area is filled with tidy dairy farms, my home area is filled with all sorts of homesteads, many with old tractors, rusty plows, and parts of cars sitting in the yard. It's hard to find a junky yard in Wisconsin; not so much back home.

Perhaps that's just a reflection of nature because the woods there are scrappy too. There are over thirty kinds of oak trees alone, not to mention cedar, southern pine, maple, sycamore, and catalpa. Because it's a transition zone, trees from east and west, north and south, all vie for a little space near the creeks and rivers. Even looking at a distant hill, I could see the difference because the height and shape of the trees varied so much.

In the shade of these trees grow redbud, dogwood, and other underbrush of all sorts. The state tree is actually a bush, after all. Even the roadsides are filled with a variety of wildflowers, never a sweep of just one kind of flower. I remember noticing this when I was a child travelling through the Midwest on hot summer days. I could tell I was near home when the flowers became more disorganized!

Often, however, there is no roadside to speak of. If you have a flat tire on a backroad there, you have to fix it while hoping another car doesn't come speeding along. Not that anyone other than my

mother could speed on those backroads. Apparently, the Department of Transportation there thinks shoulders are for sissies. At most, you may have six inches of gravel by a paved road, next to a weedy ditch that slopes precipitously away from the pavement. Unless you are driving a tractor, you do not dare risk your axle pulling off those roads.

Another way I knew that I was nearing my childhood home was that I routinely drove for more than thirty miles without encountering any area straight enough to allow passing. Not that I minded too much. I love driving on roads where I am constantly turning or going up or down hills. Flatland beauty was not part of my upbringing.

What can I say? I come from a messy, scrappy place. I love Wisconsin, especially because it's not so hot and humid. But for a part of me, a scrappy mess still says "home." ■



FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

In lieu of registration fees for most UWRA webinars and programs, donations are encouraged to the Open Seat Food Pantry that serves food-insecure UW students. The pantry is a project of ASM, Associated Students of Madison, and strives to provide healthy, accessible sources of food, household products, and personal-care goods to any enrolled student in need. Learn more about it at asm.wisc.edu/the-open-seat/.

Checks payable to UW Foundation, with "Open Seat" on the memo line, may be mailed to: UWRA, 21 North Park Street, Room 7205, Madison, WI 53715-1218. ■

BOOK MARKS

Jewelweed: A Novel

REVIEWED BY DORIS GREEN, UWRA MEMBER

There's nothing like a death to focus one's resolve. After Wisconsin writer David Rhodes died last November, I finally got around to reading *Jewelweed* (Milkweed Editions, 2013), as well as several of his other novels.

Separating an author's books from the writer's life is impossible, and most summaries of Rhodes' literary accomplishments note a personal tragedy. After experiencing early success with the novels *The Easter House* and *Rock Island Line*, Rhodes took the risk of one last motorcycle ride before the birth of his daughter in 1976. That ride ended in an accident and partial paralysis. His next published novel did not appear until *Driftless* in 2008.

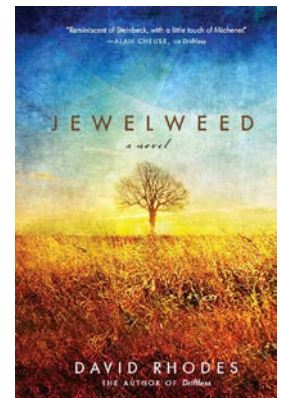
All of Rhodes' books, but especially *Jewelweed*, slow down life's journey to better hear its heart-beat. They focus sharply on the ordinary to savor life's richness amidst the ties and generousities of a rural community. Paying close attention to multiple characters—a former prison inmate, an independent-minded housekeeper, a recluse, a pastor, a mechanic of everything, and their children and neighbors—Rhodes observes them all with a deep love. Their lives become springboards to unordinary realms, transcending far beyond Southwest Wisconsin's hills and valleys and curves. Their lives interweave, reflecting the anger, joy, hope, good, and not-so good decisions common to us all.

Characters' conversations and thoughts propel us to realizations apt to our own lives, as when cousins Blake and Bee discuss Blake's misunderstandings about his longtime love: "An uncomfortable silence settled between them, as if thoughts were burning like old tires inside it." And then, Blake's "bones ... softened and he sagged on the bench like an empty jacket and pair of pants."

Rhodes' metaphors drive us to understand truths beyond the mere circumstances of daily life, as when Pastor Winnie is weeding in her garden: "And yet as she crawled from place to place, leaving behind mounds of extracted weeds as big as muskrat

houses, she struggled with a far more menacing internal adversary."

Rhodes' words resound with the authenticity and authority of a primary resource. They lift from the page like source documents in the study of life.



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

FRIENDS OF UW-MADISON LIBRARIES

Fall Book Sale October 11–14

BY LIBBY THEUNE, FRIENDS ADMINISTRATOR

The Friends of UW–Madison Libraries Fall Book Sale supports the world-class resources of the UW–Madison Libraries. Proceeds from the sale help fund public events and lectures, priorities identified by the vice provost for libraries, special purchases and preservation of library materials, and grants for the visiting scholar program.

More than eighty community volunteers participate in running this event. Books for the sale are donated by University of Wisconsin faculty, staff, students, and Madison-area residents.

Thousands of books, LPs, and DVDs will be offered. Prices drop daily. Come early for the best selection; come later for the best prices at Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison.

Wednesday, October 11 Preview Sale (\$5 entry) 4:00–8:00 P.M.

Thursday–Friday, October 12–13 Regular Sale (no entry fee) 10:30 A.M.–7:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 14 \$5 Bag Sale 9:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. (Bring your own grocery bag or purchase one for \$1.) From 1:05 to 2:00 P.M., all remaining items are FREE. ■

ATTIC ANGEL ASSOCIATION

October Talks at Attic Angel

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

October 2 WWII Veterans' Stories and How the Monopoly Game Was Used for Spying Don Zelle, historian

October 9 Women Painters from the 16th Century to the Present in the National Museum of Women in the Arts Dr. Mary Em Kirn, professor emerita of art history

October 16 Diseases Conquer History Dick Loveless, retired physics professor, University of Wisconsin, and publications chair for CERN in Geneva, Switzerland

October 23 The Art of Making Chocolate Gail Ambrosius, chocolatier

October 23 Eleven Rings: Phil Jackson, Greatest Coach in NBA History Barb Drake, sports fan and retired high school principal ■

 **SAVE THE DATE**

**TECH CLINIC:
PERSONAL FITNESS DEVICES**

January 10 In Person

Are you thinking of purchasing a personal fitness tracker or watch, but would like to know more? Maybe you already use one and would be willing to share your experience. Stay tuned for details in the December *Sifter*. We welcome any of your tech questions any time at UWRA.tech@gmail.com.

■ UW-Madison Retirement Association Calendar Dates ■

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

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Wednesday, October 4 | 1:30–3:00 P.M. | Webinar: <i>Contested Black Freedom in Wisconsin</i> (V) |
| • Tuesday, October 10 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>It's Your Choice: 2024 Health Insurance Update</i> (V) |
| • Wednesday, October 25 | 8:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. | Tastes of Green County Bus Excursion (IP) |
| • Thursday, October 26 | 2:00– 4:00 P.M | Webinar: <i>AI: Language Modeling & Reasoning</i> (V) |
| • Tuesday, October 24 | 9:00–10:30 A.M. | UWRA Breakfast at Elie's Cafe (IP) |
| • Thursday, November 2 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>Neurological Disorders as We Age</i> (V) |
| • Thursday, November 9 | 2:00– 4:00 P.M | Webinar: <i>Artificial Intelligence from Interaction & Reward</i> (V) |
| • Monday, November 13 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>Tax Update for Seniors & Planning for 2024</i> (V) |
| • Tuesday, November 28 | 9:00–10:30 A.M. | UWRA Breakfast at Elie's Cafe (IP) |
| • Tuesday, December 5 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>The Shadow Docket: Supreme Court Stealth Rulings</i> (V) |
| • Wednesday, December 20 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON | Webinar: <i>U.S. Economic Outlook</i> (V) |
| • Wednesday, January 10 | to be announced | Tech Clinic: <i>Personal Fitness Devices</i> (IP) |
| • Tuesday, January 23 | 2:00– 4:00 P.M | Webinar: <i>Life Insurance in Retirement: Is It Needed?</i> (V) |

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

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

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