



## RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

## UW-Madison Retirement Association 2018-19 Luncheon Committee Report Gail Holmes, Chair

The first program for the 2018-19 season on Monday, October 1, 2018 featured a musical extravaganza by the **Wisconsin Brass** composed of Alex Noppe and Matthew Onstad, trumpets; Tom Curry, tuba; Mark Hetzler, trombone, Daniel Grabois, horn; and joined by Anthony DiSanza, percussion. They presented a delightful selection of music and commentary. Our luncheon speaker was **Paula Bonner**, former president of the Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) and chief alumni officer of the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association. She spoke on "Alumni Park: Badger Spirit Meets the Wisconsin Idea." Joining Paula was **Mary Carbine**, Managing Director of Alumni Park and One Alumni Place, who shared forthcoming activities, programs, and special events at the Park and Place. The luncheon buffet at Covenant Presbyterian Church was catered by Gaylord's. There were 75 registered for the morning and 80 for the luncheon.

The Monday, November 12, 2018 luncheon was held at the Goodman Community Center. This program featured and supported their many activities. We began with presentations by chef **Terese Allen** on "How to feed a world: from food drives to community meals at Goodman Center Food Pantry. Terese shared how she gets creative with donated pantry foods to prepare hot meals for Pantry participants. **Sam McDaniel**, Fritz Food Pantry director, explained the larger community pantry operation and offered pantry tours for three groups of us. We continued the Goodman connection with a luncheon offering two colorful and tasty salad choices prepared by Working Class Catering, a teen employment program where they work side-by-side with experienced, dedicated staff. Luncheon speaker, **Stuart Levitan**, shared historical pictorial views of the campus and city in his presentation "Gown and town in changing times: the UW and Madison in the sixties." He named many leaders and events that brought up long-buried memories that were factual and hilarious treasures. Of course, our food pantry recipient was the Goodman Community Center Fritz Food Pantry. Morning registration was 62 and luncheon attendance was 66.

We were at the Zor Shrine Temple for our Wednesday, March 13, 2019 event. **Dr. Amy Gilman**, Director of the Chazen Art Museum, spoke on "The Chazen Museum of Art: Past, Present, and Future." It was interesting to hear of the early history, part of which we have lived through, and the exciting ways in which the public is enticed and encouraged to enter the museum, as well as her outreach efforts into the state. The luncheon speaker, Dane County Executive **Joe Parisi**, was invited again (2013 previously) to speak about "Dane County 2019." We learned about the health of Dane County lakes through farmer's practices, manure digesters, storm water runoff, phosphorous control, and use of retention ponds. The luncheon was catered by Hy-Vee for 66 attendees.

As our Tuesday, May 14, 2019 morning program promised, "It's SO much better with a song!" We enjoyed the musical talents of **Marcy Heim**, who served as the first development director for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Her rich voice and energetic performance encouraged us to sing along. Smiles and toe tapping were everywhere. We were welcomed to the Arboretum by its Director and our luncheon speaker, **Karen Oberhauser**. We learned about the history of the Arboretum and the many avenues of research and community outreach that Karen and her staff provide and envision for the future. There were 84 registered for the morning program and 96 for the luncheon catered by Gaylord's.

At each UWRA program, participants are encouraged to make donations of cash or checks to a food pantry. This year's recipients were Mt. Zion Baptist Church food pantry, Goodman Center Fritz food pantry, and twice to the Open Seat Food Pantry at the UW.

The Luncheon Committee members fully participate in presenting four events featuring two educational, timely, entertaining programs each time for the UW-Madison Retirement Association members and guests. Ample time is included for fellowship opportunities. Committee members are Darrell Barth, Marc Fink, Gail Holmes (chair), Pat Henrikson, Sarah Potts, Christine Schindler, Joel Skornicka, and Barb Wiley. We also appreciate the efforts of Sandi Haase in receiving our luncheon reservations and payments.

When I retired from the Law School in 2002, Jack Ladinsky invited me to join the Luncheon Committee. Now it is time for me to "retire" again and step down from the position of chair of the Luncheon Committee. Serving on a UWRA committee is an enjoyable experience enhanced by making so many new campus friends. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.