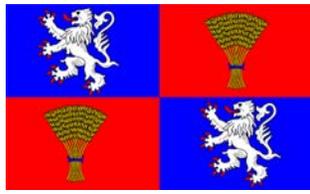




Tax Prep Webinar | p. 4



Living in Gascony | p. 5



War in Ukraine | p. 5

We're On Facebook!  
UWRA-Madison

# THE SIFTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

## WELLNESS MATTERS

### The Big Five: Immunizations for Older Adults

BY DAVID M. DECI, MD, UWRA MEMBER

Immunizations rank among the top advances in medical sciences over the past 100 years. Most of us are familiar with “baby shots” or childhood immunizations, but older adults also require immunizations on a regular basis. When and how you get them should be discussed with your healthcare provider. The good news for those of us living in Wisconsin is that a record of our immunizations is uploaded to a statewide database called the Wisconsin Immunization Registry or WIR. These records help assure that our shots are up to date and can be accessed by hospitals, physicians’ offices, and pharmacies, and also by members of the public at [dhfswir.org](https://dhfswir.org).

Fall is a good time to annually review our immunizations. The first to consider is the influenza (flu) vaccine. Influenza is a serious viral infection that frequently leads to pneumonia. Like COVID-19, influenza can be caused by several variant strains that change from year to year. That is why a yearly influenza shot is recommended.

Another important vaccination to receive is the pneumococcal vaccine (PCV). This shot helps protect against the most common form of bacterial pneumonia. Depending upon the formulation given, your age, and your underlying health status,

one or two vaccinations may be needed.

The shingles or zoster vaccination is a two-dose series that helps to protect against shingles. This painful skin outbreak can lead to scarring and nerve inflammation. This condition occurs when the chickenpox virus we had as a child gets reactivated due to stress, immune compromise, or aging.



A tetanus booster is warranted every 10 years, sooner if you have a contaminated wound. This vaccine is typically combined with components to guard against diphtheria (a serious throat infection) and pertussis that causes whooping cough. Older adults who spend time around young infants should have an updated pertussis immunization, since babies do not complete their primary vaccination series until 6 months of age and are at risk for infection prior to that time.

Lastly, COVID-19 vaccination remains critical. As all of us are aware, recommendations for booster shots are continually evolving, so stay knowledgeable about any updates. Most experts say that, due to the number of ever-changing coronavirus variants, COVID vaccines will likely be needed on an annual basis, much like the influenza vaccine.

So ... roll up your sleeve! ■

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

## UWRA to Host Big Ten Retiree Association Conference in 2023

BY SANDI HAASE



This year's Big Ten Retiree Association (BTRA) was hosted by Northwestern University in August. It was the first in-person meeting since 2019. Twenty-two delegates representing 11 institutions were present. Unfortunately, Ohio State, Rutgers, and Maryland were

not represented.

It was a busy two days. The meeting provided time for discussion on topics of common interest including the "new normal" at our associations in the wake of COVID, creating community with newsletters, access to new retirees' names and contact information, and an update of the BTRA comparison fact sheet.



A new BTRA Conference Handbook and a revision to the bylaws were approved during the business meeting. Additionally, I was able to extend a formal invitation and give a short promotion of the BTRA conference that Wisconsin will be hosting July 26–28, 2023. To add some excitement to the day, in the middle of the business meeting a fire drill required all of us to leave the building. It was actually a nice break, as we had been sitting too long! Fresh air was good and refreshed our minds, even though it was very warm.

Beyond the business meeting, there were campus

tours of the Northwestern campus, the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette, and the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe. There were several presentations by Northwestern faculty on prison education, soft electronics for the human body, town and gown relationships, translating research onto the stage and into film, and the state of global affairs on campus.

We look forward to hosting the conference at UW–Madison in July 2023. ■

### BREAKFAST AT ELIE'S CAFE

909 E. Broadway, Monona, WI

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022**

9:00–10:30 A.M. In-person gathering

Join fellow UWRA members for breakfast (or a cup of coffee or tea) at Elie's Family Restaurant. Members gather once a month for breakfast and lively conversation. No registration needed.



### 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/](https://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. ■

## NEW ON BOARD

## Michael Bernard-Donals

While I was working in the Provost's office a few years ago, I met with members of the Retirement Issues Committee, including Mary Czynczak-Lyne and Gerry Essenmacher, to discuss how to promote issues of retirees a little more prominently in university governance. We got some traction in the Provost's office, though not as much as I'd hoped. I'm guessing Gerry and Mary wanted me to put my money where my mouth was and suggested my name as a UWRA board member. No matter the reason, I'm glad to be working on these issues again, this time with the UWRA itself.



So, I still have my day job. But I do have fun outside my workdays. For one thing, all three of my kids—Shoshana, our eldest; Miryam, her younger sister; and Avi, still considered the baby at 25—are a big presence in our lives and we see them often. They live and work in Madison (Shosh just married our wonderful new son-in-law Chris), and Avi is finishing college in Chicago after taking time off to cook in various kitchens in the upper Northwest. My mother-in-law Ruth moved to Madison a little over a year ago, so we see her quite a lot as well. We have regular Shabbat dinners on Friday nights at our place for whichever family members are around, and some Fridays we have seven or eight of us around the table for food, conversation, and sometimes a hand of cards afterwards.

As an English professor, I learned the bad habit of reading books with a pencil in my hand, so novels, short fiction, and poetry got to seem like work. About ten years ago, I put my mind to reading in the summer just for fun—I put down the damn pencil!—and have relearned the enjoyment of reading without being a critic. I'm a particular fan of Booker Prize winners and finalists and novels by UW-Madison creative writing faculty and alumni, and I have rediscovered the amazing fiction of Colum

McCann. I've tried to join a book club or two, but I find I can't quite break the habit of participating like a teacher, so that may just have to wait until actual retirement.

And, one of these days, I want to get back to writing that isn't aimed for publication in a journal that maybe a hundred people will read. There's a piece I want to write about my childhood years in Argentina, where my family lived for about five years. We were there in the period just before Juan Peron returned from exile in Spain, and during years when there was a great deal of political turmoil. Americans linked with transnational corporations (my dad worked for GM) were particularly disliked. I have this memory of watching TV as my cartoon shows were interrupted by reports of tanks descending on the Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires (the Argentine "White House") in an attempted coup. There's a lot of history lurking around in my childhood memories. Eventually I'm going to sort it all out, but for now, back to my day job... ■



## REGISTER NOW

See upcoming UWRA webinars on pp. 4–5. Online registration for Zoom webinars is easy, but members may also email the UWRA office at [retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu) or call 608-262-0641 to register for events.

Webinar links and call information is 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](mailto:UWRA.tech@gmail.com)

## WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Two of UWRA's Strategic Framework priorities are *Listen* (to understand member's desires) and *Engage* (deliver high-quality offerings that compel members to engage). We need your input.

Is there a program topic or speaker that you would like to hear? Please take a moment to email your ideas to [retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu). Take the challenge to "fill the mailbox!" ■

**FINANCIAL MATTERS WEBINAR**

## Income Tax Preparation in Today's World

BY FAISAL A. KAUD AND DON MINER, MEMBERS, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RETIREMENT

**A**fter a career as a math teacher with the Madison Metropolitan School District, Paul Swanson took on leadership of Dane County's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), a national program of the Internal Revenue Service. This program offers free tax help to people (often older adults, low-to-middle income earners, and students) who need assistance in preparing their tax returns. Volunteer tax preparers receive intensive training on the Federal and Wisconsin tax laws, tax preparation, and techniques for interviewing taxpayers to obtain accurate information and select the best strategies. After the volunteer completes a client's tax return forms, the return is audited by an independent tax preparer, jointly reviewed by the tax preparer and taxpayer, and electronically forwarded to the appropriate taxing authority.

Swanson's presentation will address the current tax issues facing retirees, including special tax laws initiated during the COVID pandemic. ■

*If you have preliminary questions for the speaker, please email them to program coordinators Faisal Kaud at [fakaud@wisc.edu](mailto:fakaud@wisc.edu) and Don Miner at [dminner655@gmail.com](mailto:dminner655@gmail.com) by Monday, November 7.*

**Paul Swanson** received AARP Wisconsin's 2011 Andrus Award for Community Service, in recognition of his volunteer service helping seniors prepare their taxes.

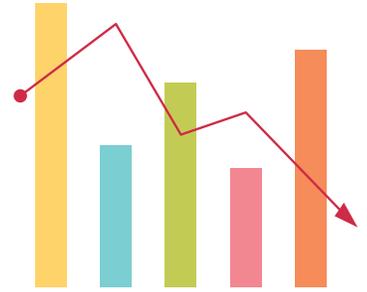


**FINANCIAL MATTERS WEBINAR**

## Economic Outlook: Inflation, Recession, or Both?

BY JOAN GILLMAN, MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RETIREMENT

**W**ill the recent U.S. economic rebound turn to recession because of continuing supply-chain issues and COVID variants? Can expansion restore the pre-crisis economy? Are fundamental changes in the jobs market apt to cause long-term disparities? Might monetary contraction lead to a recession?



Get answers to these and many more economic and financial questions. Join us when Steve Rick, chief economist for CUNA Mutual, helps us understand what is going on with the U.S. economy. Steve is one of our most popular annual presenters, so this promises to be an enlightening session.

*If you have preliminary questions for the speaker, please email them to Program Coordinator Joan Gillman at [jgillman@wisc.edu](mailto:jgillman@wisc.edu) by Wednesday, December 7.*

**Steve Rick** is a director and the chief economist for CUNA Mutual Group. He is an economic researcher, analyst, and forecaster with an expertise in consumer markets and the credit union industry.



### INCOME TAX PREPARATION

**Monday, November 14, 2022**

10:00 A.M.–NOON Online Webinar

**Registration Deadline: November 10**

Advance registration is required. Register online at: [UWRAmadison.org/event-4992465](https://UWRAmadison.org/event-4992465)

### ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**

10:00 A.M.–NOON Online Webinar

**Registration Deadline: December 9**

Advance registration is required. Register online at: [UWRAmadison.org/event-4933337](https://UWRAmadison.org/event-4933337)

**TRAVEL WEBINAR**

## An American Living in Gascony

BY ESTHER OLSON, CHAIR, TRAVEL COMMITTEE

**W**hy Gascony? Where is it? What is it like to live in an historic French town? How do you buy a house in France? Having owned a house there for 25 years, Ullrich Langer will introduce us to one of the prettiest regions in the south of France and explain the ins and outs of home ownership there. In 1996, he bought a house in La Romieu, in the southwest of France, and then moved to Lectoure, 10 miles away, in 2009. He and his wife Anne have split time between Madison and France. ■

*If you have preliminary questions for the speaker, please send to program coordinator Esther Olson at [emolson2@wisc.edu](mailto:emolson2@wisc.edu) by Wednesday, November 9.*

**Ullrich Langer** retired from the UW-Madison Department of French & Italian in 2020, just as the pandemic was forcing us all onto Zoom. He had been teaching in Madison since 1985. A specialist in French Renaissance literature and intellectual history, he remains active in research and writing and enjoys cycling and walking.



**LIVING IN GASCONY**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

1:30–3:00 P.M. Online Webinar

**Registration Deadline: November 11**

Advance registration is required. Register online at: [UWRAmadison.org/event-4985407](https://UWRAmadison.org/event-4985407)

**RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES WEBINAR**

## The War in Ukraine: How it Happened, What Happens Next

BY TOM EGGERT, MEMBER, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

**R**ussia’s war in Ukraine dates back to at least 2014. Russia initially annexed Crimea, followed shortly afterwards by the beginning of the war in the Donbas region between Russia-backed separatists and the Ukraine military. In early 2022 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) accused Russia of readying a further invasion of Ukraine, which the Russian government denied. Despite the denial, on February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine on several fronts.

In this webinar, we’ll hear from Mark Johnson, a scholar of Russian history, as he provides background and interpretation of world events that we are seeing in the news every day. The war in Ukraine represents a turning point both for Ukraine and for Putin’s Russia. ■

*If you have preliminary questions for the speaker, please send to program coordinator Tom Eggert at [tleggert@wisc.edu](mailto:tleggert@wisc.edu) by Tuesday, November 29.*

**Mark S. Johnson** studied Russian history at UW-Madison (BA) and Columbia University and the Harriman Institute (MA and PhD). He is now teaching faculty in educational policy at UW-Madison and a Fulbright policy specialist. He has done research in Russia and other post-Soviet states, including at the Institute of Education, National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) in Moscow.



**WAR IN UKRAINE**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

2:00–3:30 P.M. Online Webinar

**Registration Deadline: December 2**

Advance registration is required. Register online at: [UWRAmadison.org/event-4988646](https://UWRAmadison.org/event-4988646)

**MEET A UWRA MEMBER**

## Creating New Horizons

BY JOHN FOURNELLE

I was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1947, with early years in Alaska and Colombia, as my father was in the Public Health Service. For most of my early years, I was “outside” and suffered culture shock coming back to the United States. I dropped out of college in the late 1960s as an anti-war activist and ended up as a union gadfly, welding super-tankers in Baltimore, before returning to school to study geology.



My Johns Hopkins Ph.D. research was on the only island in the Aleutians with both volcanoes and grizzly bears. In my research, I was introduced to an instrument called the electron microprobe, a type of electron microscope with X-ray spectrometers to quantify the

micron-scale chemical composition of the beam’s target. A job opened at UW–Madison’s Department of Geology to run this instrument, and I was hired. In July 1992, I drove to Madison with my wife Judi Munaker, our 2 youngsters, and cat Sasha.

My first responsibility was assisting in purchasing a new instrument, which arrived August 1993, and my last responsibility was acquiring its replacement in 2014. In the interim, I assisted scores of graduate students with their research and taught a graduate-level class. Now that I am supposedly retired, I have the time to complete research projects I initiated years before.

I have always been interested in history. For the past 24 years, I have acquired oral histories from UW alumni and staff, from U.S. Geological Survey Aleutian researchers, and from electron micro-

probe pioneers. I am an archivist of the Microanalysis Society as well as of the UW–Madison Geoscience Department.

Judi and I have traveled around Europe as members of Servas. I have traced my Luxembourgish heritage back into the 1600s and learned there were four Fournelle “clans.” I have met several people from these clans; one—a priest—had the face of my aunt. In 2015–16, I taught a short course at Nanjing University and saw many changes in China since a 1978 visit.

Eighteen years ago, Judi and I and four others started Horizon High School as a recovery school for kids struggling with drugs, alcohol, and mental health issues. This followed from our own family’s experiences with kids returning from rehab to their old schools, only to fall back into old habits. It has been a struggle to keep Horizon running, since school districts cover only a fraction of the cost and raising funds is a constant task.

I bought an RV two years ago, planning to drive the Alcan Highway to Alaska, but COVID has delayed it. Next summer it will happen! ■

**SEPTEMBER 1–30, 2022**

**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Elly Chybowski</b>                                  | <b>Thomas O'Brien</b> , <i>State Hygiene Lab</i>         |
| <b>Timothy Chybowski</b> , <i>Pediatrics</i>           | <b>Joan Parrish</b> , <i>Animal Sciences</i>             |
| <b>Laura Duguid</b>                                    | <b>Jenny Sanner</b>                                      |
| <b>Mary Gillis</b> , <i>BioMolecular Chemistry</i>     | <b>Louis Sanner</b> , <i>Family Medicine</i>             |
| <b>Robin Kurtz</b> , <i>Bacteriology</i>               | <b>Sandee Seiberlich</b> , <i>Information Technology</i> |
| <b>Craig Mason</b> , <i>Performing and Visual Arts</i> | <b>Kathy Snyder</b>                                      |
| <b>James Miller</b> , <i>CBE</i>                       | <b>James Soley</b>                                       |
| <b>Mick Miyamoto</b> , <i>Dean of Students Office</i>  | <b>Karen Soley</b> , <i>UW Police Department</i>         |

**{ The UWRA is your network in retirement! }**

**ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT**

**A Passion for Volleyball**

BY DON SCHUTT

**M**ost people that I knew at UW-Madison I met through my human resources role, or through the undergraduate leadership seminar I taught, or via my work in career development. Very few knew that volleyball was my secret passion.

Racine Case High School was one of the few schools in Wisconsin that had boys' volleyball in the late 1970s. I loved playing recreational volleyball, but I never considered quitting football to play volleyball for my high school team.

Then, in 1978, I came to UW-Madison and lived in Bradley Residence Hall. Like many freshmen, I was trying to find a way to meet new people, so I went to the Natatorium for pick-up basketball and volleyball games. One night I stumbled across the UW-Madison Volleyball Club. I have played with and coached for the club for more than 40 years.

As I was thinking about retiring, a former colleague gave me great advice: Do not retire without a plan for how you will spend your time. That was easy. I would have more time for volleyball!

I competed during my undergraduate and graduate degrees, playing for and eventually coaching the University of Iowa Men's Collegiate Club team. Over the years, I have coached high school and club teams in Iowa City, Milwaukee, and Madison.

My volleyball experience expanded when I became a district commissioner in Iowa and the Badger Region commissioner in Wisconsin. I co-owned a volleyball company—Flamingo Row—that ran tournaments and camps and sold "volleywear" through a storefront. Volleyball has been so much of my life that, when I got engaged, my wonderful partner agreed that, following our rehearsal dinner, we could play sand volleyball well into the night.

Currently, my retirement jobs include coaching volleyball at McFarland High School and for Madtown Juniors, a club based in Sun Prairie. While my vertical jump has decreased as my age has increased, I still enjoy playing when I am not consulting,



traveling, spending time on the lake in Hayward, Wisconsin, or cheering on the Badgers (my other retirement jobs). ■

**ATTIC ANGEL ASSOCIATION**

**Continuing Education Speakers in November**

**T**he 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 but capacity is 80 persons. Program attendees must screen at the front entrance and wear a health-grade mask.

**November 7 To be announced**

**November 14 Afghan Refugee Families in Madison** Brigit Parlow, youth minister, volunteer with Boys and Girls Club, Afghan women's sewing projects

**November 21 Natural Burial and Other Projects at the Farley Center** Shed Farley, owner, Farley Center, Verona WI (Natural Path Sanctuary)

**November 28 No program** ■

## TRAVEL RECAP

# Behind the Scenes at American Players Theatre

BY ROGENE GALL, UWRA MEMBER

**E**ighteen of us braved one of the last hot, humid summer days to tour American Players Theater (APT) near Spring Green. APT actor Jennifer and stage manager Brie explained all the behind-the-scenes work necessary to produce the wonderful APT productions.



We toured the theaters—both outdoor (The Hill) and indoor (The Touchstone)—as well as the studios for set design, props, and costumes. We learned about business and organizational aspects of theater production. The work is demanding and hours are long, but the results are worth the effort. We are lucky to have this destination near us, and we recommend seeing APT's productions.

After the tour, we picnicked on the grounds, sharing great food and congenial conversation with old and new UWRA members. Thanks to those who planned this well-organized event. ■



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

# Literacy Network: A Great Volunteer Opportunity

BY SHARON KLUENDER, MEMBER, RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

**Y**ou can work one-on-one with an adult student to help them achieve their goals. Depending on the program, volunteers help students learn English, prepare for Madison College, study for GED/HSED, or prepare for their citizenship exam. The Literacy Network is a nonprofit organization on the South Side of Madison providing free classes and tutoring to adult students.



Literacy Network paid staff and volunteers tutored 779 students from 70 countries in 2021, delivering 24,692 hours of instruction with 8,384 hours provided by volunteers. The volunteers provided approximately \$233,662 of estimated value to the agency. Students and volunteers range in age from 19 to over 75. The Literacy Network has diverse group of volunteers and students representing many different countries and cultures.

You can join this group of volunteers who make a difference in both the community and the adult learner's life. Consider volunteering if you can commit two hours per week for a semester, are fluent in English, and are reliable, kind, and patient. Learn more about volunteer roles and apply at [litnetwork.org/volunteer](https://litnetwork.org/volunteer). ■

## WEBINAR RECAP

## Retiring Your Way: Navigating and Accessing Health Resources

BY FAISAL A. KAUD, MEMBER AND JACK SORENSON, CO-CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RETIREMENT

UWRA member Jack Sorenson kicked off this September 2022 webinar by introducing the Decision Tool for Health Care and Budgeting. The primary goals of this tool are:

- provide a general assessment of an individual's health and mobility,
- account for current income and expenses, and
- identify financial assets.

This information is important for accurately matching personal health issues with support services required to address those needs and, crucially, ascertaining whether a person's financial state is sufficient to maintain current living situation. A retiree equipped with this vital information and with access to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Aging and Disability Resources Center of Dane County (ADRC) can make more informed retirement living decisions.



Panelist Sridevi Mohan, manager of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), detailed the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the Aging Network of Dane County. AAA is responsible for successful delivery of aging programs, funding the programs and services offered by the pertinent agencies in Dane County, such as NewBridge in Madison.

Angela Velasquez, division administrator of Disability and Aging Services, explained the vast array of services available under OAA. These



services are offered under Title III Part B, support services for general well-being and welfare of older adults, such as legal services and transportation.

To administer these programs, the services of Elder Benefit Specialist and Case Manager classifications were established. Title III Part C-1 defined the provision of congregate meals for seniors age 60 and above; these services are funded by Dane County but donations are accepted. Funded meals include congregate meal sites, home delivered meals, and restaurant dining. Title III Part D provides for evidence-based disease prevention and chronic disease with self-management programs. Title III Part E deals with caring for caregivers.

Jennifer Fischer, manager of the Aging and Disability Resources Center of Dane County (ADRC), presented an overview of ADRC services, a single-entry point for publicly funded long-term care. Any older adult can use the full range of services offered and can obtain a deeper knowledge of any facet of long-term care.

A final note, the services of AAA and ADRC are free of charge to all; there is no income test. Their staff members are knowledgeable and have extensive networks to provide services and information. It would be worth your time to view the video of this presentation to learn more about these agencies. ■

Visit the UWRA website ([UWRAMadison.org](https://www.uwramadison.org)) then select Resources/Presentations/2022-23 Sep-Dec to find slides, PDFs, and a video of the entire program.

REFLECTIONS

# The Kindness of Strangers

BY MARY BARNARD RAY

Traveling well involves careful planning, but no matter how careful you are, sometimes you are just not in sufficient control of the circumstances. This happened to us when we were traveling in Scotland earlier this year. We arrived at the Edinburgh bus station at the end of a small-group trip to Orkney, only to find that there were no cabs available



to take us to our hotel in preparation for our flight out the next day. While some fellow travelers had vouchers for reserved vehicles, we had none. We were faced with finding a cab during rush hour on a dark, rainy evening. Trudging out onto the steeply sloped sidewalk

to look for the taxi stand with suitcases and assorted bags in tow, we were feeling a little desperate, in no little part because I had come down with a cold and asthma complications. We searched in vain for the taxi stand. There was none to be seen.

I saw a big black cab passing by, and in desperation waved at it—hoping at least to learn where the stand was. The driver shook his head and mouthed something I couldn't hear. I must have looked needy, though, because soon he gestured me forward, indicating I should go uphill a bit. Up the hill I struggled, calling for Dennis to follow, and saw the cab pull over to the curb. I expected to get information on how to find a cab, but instead a lithe, stylish woman in high platform sandals stepped out of the cab, glanced our way, smiled sardonically at me, and strode away without another look back. The cabdriver got out to help us with our bags. Apparently, the young woman had seen us from her seat in the cab and decided she could walk the remaining two blocks to her destination, giving us the cab. My story could end here, with an angel in disguise coming to our rescue.

But in honesty, I have to add a caveat. That pitying

## HOW TO JOIN A UWRA ZOOM MEETING OR WEBINAR

**Meeting reminders are sent to all registrants 7 days and 2 days prior to an event**

**ZOOM call information is located near the bottom of meeting reminders**

**ZOOM URL and Passcode (Take note of Passcode as it may be needed when connecting to the ZOOM event)**

**NOTE:**  
Depending on device, platform and email system used, 'clicking' (or tapping) on the URL may or may not work.  
If 'clicking' on the URL does not work, you will need to use the <COPY> command by highlighting the entire URL and <PASTE> the URL into a web browser.

**SAMPLE BROWSER METHOD**

<COPY> & <PASTE> URL into the browser you use (Google, Chrome, Firefox, etc.)

look she gave me before she strode away added a layer of complexity to the general idea of the kindness of strangers. She was, after all, young and able and obviously well-off, a woman in the prime of early adulthood. She has yet to experience the awareness of losing capability and strength, the slowing down of the body and mind. She did not know that there was a time when I could run down the street at top speed in spike heels without turning my ankle. She didn't realize that we once were young, as she is, and that someday she will be older, as we are. In short, she didn't realize that we were likely a vision of her future.

Did that make her action less generous? No, nor did it make it less welcome. But perhaps my observation of her glance softened the blow of old age for me. I had felt frustrated, helpless, and a little frightened by my realization of personal physical loss. But with that glance, I knew at least I had gained some wisdom and perspective—knowledge she would have to wait a few years to acquire. ■

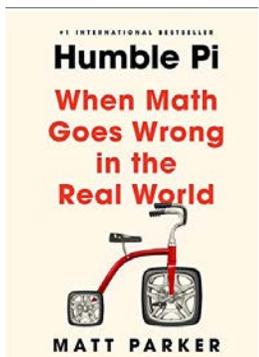
**BOOK MARKS**

**Humble Pi: When Math Goes Wrong in the Real World**

REVIEWED BY MILLARD SUSMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE MEMBER

There are people who think math is dull, even mind-numbing, but they haven't met Matt Parker, the author of *Humble Pi* (Penguin Books, 2019), who calls himself a standup mathematician. (You can find hours of his math patter on YouTube.) *Humble Pi* highlights the fascination of math, telling stories about math gone wrong in ways that are sometimes hilarious, sometimes horrifying.

*Humble Pi* starts with a story about a customer who tried to use Pepsi Points to buy a \$20 million Marine Corps jet plane. The ad department at Pepsi didn't do the math. They offered to sell points for 10 cents each, and the clever customer realized that he could get a military jet at the 96.5% discount. The courts, of course, did not sympathize with the customer.



Parker covers a wide range of cases in which igno-

rance of math, or just plain sloppiness, has produced unexpected outcomes. There are shaking and collapsing bridges, a building that dances in resonance with an exercise class on the 12th floor, an aviation computer that malfunctions when planes cross the International Dateline, and companies that lost vast sums because they assumed their spreadsheets couldn't make mistakes. There is a warning that devices depending on Unix 32-bit timekeeping will crash on January 19, 2038. Also, there's an interesting discussion of the amusing problems that can arise when countries fail to use the same calendar.

I loved the section on Grime Dice. These colored, cubic dice bear numbers on their faces such that a person rolling a single red die is expected to beat a person rolling a blue die in an extended game. And a blue die roller will beat a green die roller. Green beats yellow, and yellow beats magenta. Now comes the surprise: magenta beats red! Sometimes math reality does not conform to our expectations, and this is a wonderful example. Who says math isn't interesting? ■

Please email brief book reviews for Book Marks to column coordinator Laurie Mayberry at [laurie.mayberry@wisc.edu](mailto:laurie.mayberry@wisc.edu).

**■ UW-Madison Retirement Association Calendar Dates ■**

Continue to monitor the [UWRAmadison.org](http://UWRAmadison.org) website for further updates.

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

- |                                |                  |  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--|
| • Tuesday, November 1, 2022    | 2:00–4:00 P.M.   | Webinar <i>Gerrymandering: When Is a Map Unfair?</i> (V)         |
| • Monday, November 14, 2022    | 10:00–NOON       | Webinar <i>Income Tax Preparation in Today's World</i> (V)       |
| • Wednesday, November 16, 2022 | 1:30–3:00 P.M.   | Webinar <i>An American Living in Gascony</i> (V)                 |
| • Tuesday, November 22, 2022   | 9:00–10:30 A.M.  | Breakfast at Elie's Cafe (IP)                                    |
| • Tuesday, December 6, 2022    | 2:00–3:30 P.M.   | Webinar <i>The War in Ukraine</i> (V)                            |
| • Wednesday, December 14, 2022 | 10:00 A.M.–NOON  | Webinar <i>Economic Outlook: Inflation, Recession, Both?</i> (V) |
| • Monday, January 9, 2023      | 10:00–11:30 A.M. | Webinar <i>Do Not Let the Family Tree Get Top Heavy</i> (V)      |
| • Tuesday, January 17, 2023    | 2:00–3:30 P.M.   | Webinar <i>Human-Robot Interaction and Teams</i> (V)             |

For information on upcoming PLATO trips, visit [platomadison.org/page-18561](http://platomadison.org/page-18561). For information on Board and Committee meetings and deadlines for **The Sifter**, see the UWRA website at [UWRAmadison.org](http://UWRAmadison.org).

## THE SIFTER

UWRAmadison.org

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### IN THIS ISSUE

Wellness Matters: Vaccinations **p. 1**

From the Executive Director **p. 2**

November Breakfast **p. 2**

New on Board: Michael Bernard-Donals **p. 3**

Webinar: Income Tax Preparation **p. 4**

Webinar: Economic Outlook **p. 4**

Webinar: An American Living in Gascony **p. 5**

Webinar: The War in Ukraine **p. 5**

Meet a Member: John Fournelle **p. 6**

New Members **p. 6**

Activities in Retirement: Volleyball **p. 7**

Attic Angel Continuing Education Speakers **p. 7**

Travel Recap: Visiting American Players Theatre **p. 8**

Volunteer: Literacy Network **p. 8**

Webinar Recap: Retiring Your Way **p. 9**

Reflections: The Kindness of Strangers **p. 10**

Book Marks: *Humble Pi* **p. 11**

UWRA Calendar **p. 11**