



Regent Neighborhood

February 2023 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION

Housing Matters

by **Ron Rosner and Mike Varda***

We're frequently reminded of the rapid growth Madison is experiencing and attempts by the City to address it. Based on the Mayor's **Housing Forward** initiative, if the current rate of growth continues, by 2040 "there could be 70,000 new residents and 40,000 new households in Madison."

According to the Mayor, aggressive efforts by the City to facilitate construction of new housing can meet only a portion of the increased demand; other methods and policies will also be necessary. Among the policy approaches is a proposed revision to the City's zoning code and in particular, a revision of the definition of what constitutes a "family" for purposes of establishing the number of individuals that can legally occupy a residence in the city.

The City assessor's 2022 valuation report indicates there are about 50,000 "single-family" homes in Madison. The vast majority of these are "owner-occupied." Under the current zoning code, an owner-occupied home is allowed to have up to four unrelated individuals living with the owning household. If the house is not owner-occupied, that is, if it's held for rental purposes, only two unrelated individuals, or a family plus one unrelated, can legally occupy the house. Under the City's current proposal, the distinction between owner-occupied



Much of Lathrop Street is rental property.

and non-owner-occupied would be eliminated as a basis in the zoning code for an occupancy limit.

What's the City's reasoning for such a change?

The City says: *The original intent of the family definition was to protect single family neighborhoods from college student renter households and was added to Madison's zoning code in 1966. Today, the restrictive family definition negatively impacts Madison's goals of increasing housing supply and equity. This proposed ordinance change expands the definition of family in order to expand housing options and equity.* [Drafter's Analysis—Legistar File No. 74885]

(continued on page 3)

The RNA Board Needs YOU—Please Consider Volunteering—see page 3



Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

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A Note from the President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you are having a great winter. The Regent Neighborhood Association Board has been busy over the past couple of months learning and sharing information about the proposed change in the family definition in the City's zoning code. We were able to work with Alders Vidaver and Evers as well as our neighboring neighborhood associations, Vilas and Greenbush, to hold an informational meeting on December 19. The meeting was very well attended. City staff shared the details and their reasoning behind this proposed change.

Fortunately, staff, the Mayor, and other sponsors of the proposed change have agreed to delay action on it until June. This will allow for further analysis and potential modifications to the current proposal. You will find more details on this proposed zoning change in the article written by Ron Rosner and Mike Varda.

We continue to have open positions on our Board. I encourage you to explore joining the RNA Board. If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact John Schlaefer, our membership chair.

Wishing you all a great start to 2023.

—Shiva



*RNA Board President
Shiva Bidar*

Upcoming RNA Board Meetings

• **February 28, 2023** • **March 28, 2023**

The Regent Neighborhood Association Board typically meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Please check the RNA website at **regentneighborhood.org** for any changes. All meetings take place online until further notice. These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to shivabidar@tds.net

Join the RNA Google Group—

groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn

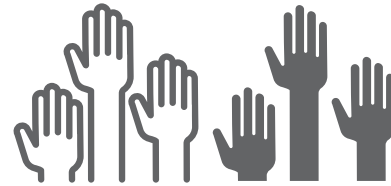
Join the RNA Google Group listserv for monthly meeting invites, or email christine.p.stocke@gmail.com for instructions on how to be included.

Calling All Volunteers to the RNA Board—

There are several key vacancies on the RNA Board that require filling. On the top of the list are vice-president and treasurer. After several years of service, current Treasurer Steve Scheller is retiring. Here's a description of what's involved.

The Treasurer carries out the duties outlined in the RNA bylaws, including,

- Retrieve the mail from the RNA post office box with appropriate frequency.
- Deliver mailed membership forms to the Membership Chair in a timely manner.
- Deposit membership dues into the association checking account.
- Pay invoices for printing of the newsletter, the directory and other operating expenses incurred.
- Reimburse members for out-of-pocket expenses.
- Provide cash for the ticket table and pay the



operators of the games at the July 4th Festival, and keep money secured.

- Keep the checkbook balanced.
- Give a financial report to the Board at each board meeting.

Other positions currently open are Festivals, Development and Preservation, and School Relations committee chairs, and an advertising coordinator.

If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact Membership Chair John Schlaefer at schlaeferjw@gmail.com ■

Housing Matters *(continued from page 1)*

Based on the above analysis, the City appears willing to abandon one goal—protection of single-family neighborhoods—in favor of another—expanding housing opportunities and equity. In so doing, the City has ignited a conflict that will require the cooperation of officials and local neighborhood leaders to resolve.

The level of interest in the proposed change, and opposition to it, was evident in a two-hour Zoom meeting with City officials in December, co-hosted by Alders Tag Evers (13th District) and Regina Vidaver (5th District). Over 100 people attended (despite the concurrent broadcast of a Packers game). Most speakers that evening opposed the zoning change due to its potentially adverse effects on near-West neighborhoods.

The RNA listserv also became a forum for neighbors to express their opinions on the issue. About 50 individual comments were posted. Not surprisingly, participation of neighbors residing closest to UW–Madison dominated and opinions were strongly negative. A small number were more open to the proposed change and welcomed the increased diversity that could result from it.

What's Next?

The active engagement on the part of many individuals and their neighborhood associations proves that the goal of protecting the family quality of neighborhoods is still very important. Neighbors in opposition to the proposed change point to

continuous erosion of the family quality, especially since relaxation of zoning standards in the 1980s allowed entire blocks to fall into student-rental use. Others, perhaps less immediately impacted by the earlier zoning change, are more willing to invite the increased diversity that could accompany such a change. They point to the acceptance of student neighbors and co-ops and the success of more diverse neighborhoods elsewhere in the city as suggestive of what could happen here. At times such groups seemed to be talking past each other.

In coming months, the City, which has deferred consideration of the issue from its earlier timeline, must reconcile the competing goals of protecting neighborhoods and increasing housing opportunities, and how the zoning code might be usefully amended to increase “equity,” however that concept may be defined. In that process, further study of the potential impacts of the proposed change will be important, as will the active participation of affected individuals and neighborhood associations such as the RNA.

*Ron Rosner and Mike Varda are long-time (40+ years) residents of the Regent neighborhood. Both are past Chairs of the RNA's Zoning Committee. Neighbors interested in more information are encouraged to contact Ron at rosner7@charter.net, elected officials, or the City's Zoning Administrator Katie Bannon at kbannon@cityofmadison.com. Neighbors can also continue to post comments on the RNA's listserv. ■

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Alder Report—District 5

Madison Public Market: Crossing the Finish Line

During the City budget deliberations in November, I was proud to work collaboratively with then-Alder Abbas and Alder Wehelie to shepherd through the final piece in the funding puzzle for the Madison Public Market (MPM). We also had some help from our colleagues on the Dane County Board, who chipped in \$1.5M in County financing!

In case you're not familiar with the Madison Public Market, this is a public-private venture that will feature locally-produced and culturally diverse foods, both grown and prepared, along with artisan handicrafts. There will be event rental space available for weddings, quinceañeras, bar and bat mitzvahs, and other celebrations. In addition, the MPM will include a Food Innovation Center with a commercial-grade Market Kitchen, which will be a processing center for existing and future vendors; a training facility; and kitchen for caterers serving the rental space. The Food Innovation Center will include food processing equipment available to both Market vendors and non-vendors interested in manufacturing value-added food products, thus expanding the reach of the endeavor beyond its walls. The MPM is expected to attract over 500,000 visitors each year, support more than 130 local businesses, create at least 100 jobs, and generate up to \$16 million in local sales annually.

The MPM will be a destination, and importantly, a year-round one. With Madison's sometimes brutal winters, having public amenities that people can participate in builds community cohesiveness and pride. When we look at municipalities with high scores on public health measures, a feeling of belonging and community is essential. Furthermore, areas that support entrepreneurship and small businesses are healthier, by improving socioeconomic conditions and reducing unemployment, particularly among communities of color. This was the reason I was so committed to seeing this project through to fruition: my entire career has been centered in health, and I saw this project as critical to building a healthier, more resilient Madison.

In order to ensure the Market is successful from the get-go, the City has supported the Market Ready program, which has graduated 18 vendors with business



*Alder Regina Vidaver
Photo: Jeanine Schneider*

plans, and provided five with small grants to support their transition to market vendors. Approximately 200 vendors have already expressed interest in locating at the MPM!

While some people expressed concern at the expense of this project, I want to make clear that the source of additional City funding came from local Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) dollars—a governmental finance tool that provides funds to construct public infrastructure, promote development opportunities, and expand the future tax base. That is, this expenditure did not increase the City's capital borrowing ledger. The MPM is exactly the type of project that TIFs are designed to support: projects that would not go forward but for City financing. The MPM Foundation will be responsible for all operating costs, and has already acquired a significant portion of the necessary start-up funds, most recently receiving an additional \$40,000 from the Madison Community Foundation. If you are so inclined to donate to the future success of the MPM, please visit MadisonPublicMarket.org and click "Give."

I look forward to the planned opening of this wonderful community resource in early 2025, and sincerely hope you will join me in supporting our local entrepreneurs by frequenting the MPM regularly!

Regina Vidaver, District 5 Alder,
Madison Common Council

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Dane County Board Report—District 13

Thank you for allowing me another contribution to your newsletter! I wish you and your families a good start to the new year. Slowly but surely winter is transitioning into spring, and I hope everyone continues to stay healthy and safe.



*Supervisor
Olivia Xistris-Songpanya*

As you may know, the County Board passed our annual budget in November. This budget gives insight on Dane County's priorities for the 2023 year as it is the source of funding for Dane County services. The 2023 County Budget is an extension of the crucial efforts made in the past decade. In the Budget, you will find initiatives to ensure basic human necessities for vulnerable populations, combat climate change effects, conserve county land and water, address the impacts of inflation on Dane County residents, and continue robust behavioral services. I am proud of much of the budget, but am especially grateful for my colleagues' introduction of a \$40,000 grant to promote and

support equitable programs involving art. As a member of the Dane Arts Commission, I was pleased to see this grant in the budget. The details of the processes and specific requirements are still to be worked out by the Dane Arts Commission, but any art disciplinary program which works directly with vulnerable youth populations in Dane County will be eligible to receive this fund. I believe it will certainly provide more equitable opportunities for underserved youth in our community to be involved in the arts.

I expect a busy and exciting year for the Board. Please visit dane.legistar.com (Legistar) for all County Board meetings' details and agendas. You can search any county legislation on Legistar. As your Supervisor, I am eager to hear your opinions, comments, questions, or concerns. I invite you to contact me at xistris-songpanya.olivia@countyofdane.com.

My best,

Olivia ■



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Dane County Board Report—District 11

I hope that you are still enjoying a healthy and restful 2023. Maybe you have found total joy in the holiday season, but for anyone that is struggling, please make use of local resources. The Behavioral Health Resource Center (danebhrc.org/) is a great office that can help members of the public navigate mental health resources, whether it's crisis care or just finding a therapist that takes your insurance or provides care regardless of health care coverage. Hang in there!



*Supervisor
Richelle Andrae*

Every year, the most important task before the County Board is passing a budget, which funds county services for the following year. In November, we passed both the operating (services) and capital (borrowing, generally for public works projects, land purchases) budgets. There was considerable debate over a jail-related provision, and I continue to seek a path forward to address the most egregious safety and quality issues at the current facility.

The items I championed in the budget included food system planning, converting Limited Term Employment positions for staff attorneys into full time staff, providing funding to release individuals eligible for electronic monitoring who experience housing insecurity, and staff capacity to develop a plan, working in collaboration with

other jurisdictions across the county, for non-law enforcement responses to mental health crises. The budget also funds reproductive health navigator positions, affordable housing investments, development of a public market, additional support for the Behavioral Health Resource Center, efforts to fight the opioid epidemic, sediment removal and phosphorus mitigation, construction on the Lower Yahara River Trail, and a biodigester, just to name a few exciting initiatives. This is a budget that I'm proud of, and one that supports meeting both basic needs for individuals struggling in the community and invests in long-term quality of life for all residents. For anyone that wants to "nerd out" on the passed operating budget, search for "2022 RES-208" at dane.legistar.com.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone about the upcoming spring elections. I imagine that you, like me, are exhausted from the 2022 election season, but we have some big races on the ballot such as for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. So please make a plan to vote in the primary on February 21 and the general election on April 4. Critical information is available at www.myvote.wi.gov.

Yours in service,

Richelle Andrae

Andrae.Richelle@CountyofDane.com | 414-469-6664

Sign up for district updates at board.countyofdane.com/Supervisors/signup/11 ■



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From Representative Shelia Stubbs—Wisconsin, Assembly District 77

This January, the 2023–24 legislative session for the Wisconsin State Assembly began. It is the honor of a lifetime to continue to serve our shared community, and I am excited to get to work!

This session, I will serve as the Ranking Member of the Assembly Committee on Corrections. As a Former Probation and Parole Agent, I have extensive experience around our state's correctional system, and I am excited to bring this experience to the committee. As ranking member, I will lead my fellow Democratic lawmakers in finding ways to reduce recidivism and support our correctional staff. It is an honor to serve in this role, and to bring real knowhow to the table.

I am also excited to announce that I will serve on the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities. The 77th Assembly District contains many dynamic educational institutions, including part of the University of Wisconsin Madison, Edgewood College, and Madison College's Goodman South campus. These institutions make meaningful impact on countless aspects of our community, and I look forward to supporting higher education in the state legislature.

In addition, I will return to the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, where I will continue to find equity-based criminal justice solutions by working with my colleagues to find



*Representative
Shelia Stubbs*

common ground. By prioritizing equity, we can ensure that our criminal justice system works to make our communities safer, and to correct past injustices.

Lastly, I will be returning to the Assembly Committee on Tourism, but not in my previous ranking member role. It was an honor to lead my Democratic colleagues in this committee last session, and to work alongside Secretary-designee Anne Sayers. It is an honor to highlight all that Wisconsin has to offer families around our country, and around the world.

Thank you, members of the Regent Neighborhood Association for giving me the chance once again to contribute to your newsletter. I am honored to represent you. If you ever would like to reach out to my office, or if you would like to subscribe to my e-Newsletter, please email Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov. If you would like to stay more in tune you can follow me on Facebook at facebook.com/repstubbs or Twitter at twitter.com/RepStubbs. Thank you again and I hope you find these updates informative!

—Shelia Stubbs:

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Poets' Corner—University Heights Poetry Club and University Heights Literary Society

by **Ronnie Hess**

Ed: Some of you know this story, which your editor has written about before in the RNA newsletter, around 2010. It's worth telling again, a little differently.

A hundred years ago, a literary society thrived in the Regent neighborhood—The University Heights Poetry Club. The UHPC held its first meeting on October 31, 1896, and for 65 years was a vital cultural organization, holding frequent readings at houses up and down the hill. Members of this cosmopolitan group included university professors and business leaders from five founding families—Charles and Martha Buell; Richard and Anna Ely; Homer Winthrop and Harriet Hillyer; Amos Arnold and Jennie Knowlton; and Charles Foster Smith and his children, his wife having died a few years before.¹

Others who came shortly thereafter (and not necessarily from the UH neighborhood) included astronomer Albert Stowell Flint and his wife Helen; Sarah Conover, sister of General Lucius Fairchild; Walter Smith, UW–Madison librarian; Frederick W. Roe, a professor of English; Louis Kahlenberg, a professor of physical chemistry, and his wife Lillian; Judge Edward T. Fairchild, who went on to become head of the Wisconsin Supreme Court; and Thornton Wilder's mother, Mrs. Amos Wilder.

The group's readings, which were not confined to poetry, ranged from Greek and Roman classics to Shakespeare to 19th century European and American works. The organization fell into decline in the 1960s, but during its heyday the UHPC was an important medium of entertainment and intellectual exchange. It mirrored the formation of "national learned societies" across the country, before the development of mass media and new communications technologies, such as "talkies," radio, and TV.

The children of these families were not to be outdone. Sisters Pauline and Mary Buell, their friends Catharine Jackson, Margaret Knowlton, Leola Lorenz, and Margaret McGilvary founded their own literary club that, from 1906 to 1909, was a lively counterpart to their parents'. And, like them, they kept a journal discovered by UW–Madison emeritus professor of geoscience Dave Mickelson when he was organizing the papers of the late Jill Gonzalez-Jay along with those of her mother, Gertrude Knowlton Wilson. Wilson, who died in 1999, was Margaret Knowlton's baby sister, the youngest daughter of



Ely House—Richard and Anna Ely, also founding members of the University Heights Poetry Club, lived in this Georgian revival-style house at 205 North Prospect Avenue. It was designed by Chicago architect Charles Sumner Frost and built in 1896.

Amos and Jennie Knowlton, two of the founders of the Poetry Club.

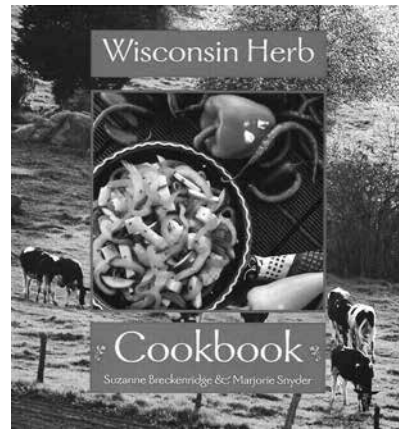
But back to the girls! The minutes of the group, called "Hill Folk," is a delightful read. There are details about dues-paying and the election of officers, along with accounts of what the group read—Winston Churchill's novel, *The Crossing*, a story by Herman Melville, Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and more age-specific tales such as *A Cathedral Courtship*, by Kate Douglas Wiggin, author of *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*.

But other subjects make the journal particularly endearing and revealing. There are accounts of songs, dances, and games at the turn of the century. The girls—mostly in their pre- and early teens—also kept a faithful record of what they ate at their gatherings, including sugar cookies, molasses candy, toasted marshmallows, ice cream and fudge. The girls were artful writers, their entries at turns erudite and playful. Take two entries, for example. On January 18, 1907, one of the girls wrote that the meeting could hardly be dignified by that name, "as it was chiefly composed of giggles and 'slams' and compliments to, well, I mention no names." Another entry, for the April 19, 1907, meeting refers to the appearance of two young male guests, "who sad to say demanded most of the attention."

The journal, some 100 pages in length, ended abruptly on March 12, 1909. That night, Anna Ely (who joined the group in 1907—there were eventually about ten members) *(continued on page 14)*

Recipe Corner—Suzanne Breckenridge

If some of you have ever wondered who's behind the wheel of the car whose license plates read: "Food," meet Suzanne Breckenridge. A long time Regent Neighborhood resident, she's also one of its most well-known cooks and food stylists. Along with her pal Marjorie Snyder, she taught cooking classes in Marge's kitchen, then in local cookware shops. Both co-authored a food column for *Wisconsin Trails* magazine for more than ten years, and for *Isthmus*. The women went on to write *The Wisconsin Country Gourmet* (Wisconsin Trails, 1988), and then *The Wisconsin Herb Cookbook* (Prairie Oak Press, 1996) and *The Michigan Herb Cookbook* (University of Michigan Regional, 2001). According to Suzanne, the following cake recipe, from the *Wisconsin Herb Cookbook*, is "easy, quick and elegant, with wonderful flavor." She suggests that you drizzle a small amount of raspberry sauce over the top of each slice and on each serving plate. A few fresh raspberries and a sprig of mint alongside make for an elegant presentation.



Almond Ginger Torte with Fresh Raspberry Sauce*

Serves 12.

For the cake:

¾ cup sugar
1 stick unsalted butter, at room temperature
8 ounces almond paste
3 large eggs
2 tablespoons Kirsch
¼ teaspoon almond extract
3 tablespoons crystallized ginger, chopped small
2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger
1/3 cup flour + more for dusting the pan
1/3 teaspoon baking powder
Powdered sugar

Directions: Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter an 8½-inch round cake pan, then line it with wax or parchment paper, butter again and dust with flour. In a mixer, combine sugar, butter and almond paste, and blend well. Beat in eggs, Kirsch, almond extract, and gingers. In a small bowl, mix the flour and baking powder, then add to the sugar/butter/egg mixture. Combine well. Pour into prepared pan and bake 30–40 minutes until lightly golden and a toothpick or knife inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. When cool, invert the cake onto a serving platter, remove the wax or parchment paper and dust lightly with powdered sugar before serving. You can also make the raspberry sauce below. The cake, without the sauce, can be made a day ahead.

For the sauce:

1 pint (about 2 cups) fresh raspberries or
10 ounces frozen
4 tablespoons sugar
3 tablespoons Kirsch or another fruit-flavored liqueur
2 tablespoons cornstarch
4 tablespoons water
lemon juice

Directions: Process raspberries with sugar in a blender until you have a purée. Press through a sieve to remove the seeds. In a medium-sized saucepan, mix Kirsch or another fruit-flavored liqueur, and cornstarch dissolved in water, adding lemon juice to taste. Add the raspberry purée and heat until the mixture turns transparent and thickens. Remove from heat. Pour over cake.

*Reprinted with permission. ■

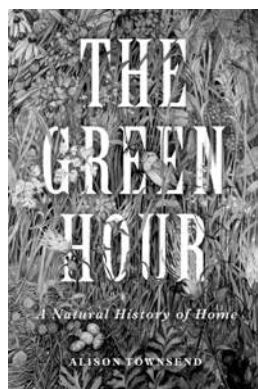
What I'm Reading—Ronnie Hess

Sometimes, it's difficult to put a newsletter together when it's the holidays, times when there are other, more important tasks and deadlines. "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley" ("To a Mouse," Robert Burns). So, permit me to present myself as this edition's bibliophile, reporting on what's been on my shelf.

One of the books that came to me by way of poetry recently is Javier Zamora's *Solito*, a memoir about the author's trying to reach the United States from El Salvador to be reunited with his parents (via Guatemala and Mexico). I had read Zamora's debut book of poems, *Unaccompanied* (Copper Canyon Press, 2017), and it had been so moving that I was eager to read *Solito* (Hogarth, 2022) as well, published to much praise. Both the poems and memoir trace the same story—the trauma of leaving home in 1999, leaving behind a beloved grandmother, grandfather, aunts, traveling for nine weeks—with the help of various coyotes or human smugglers—through Central America to the US border, across the Sonoran Desert. This odyssey would have been hair-raising, even mythic, enough for any migrant, but Zamora was an unaccompanied nine-year-old. In an interview, Zamora has said, "The chances of me surviving now would have been slim" (*The Guardian*, September 10, 2022). The poems speak from an adult's point of view, the memoir with the voice of the child. Take your pick. Either one is deeply affecting.

If some people might think all I read is poetry, they'd be wrong. My pile of prose is daunting, the eyes proverbially bigger than, well, you know.

Another book that I was eager to read is *The Green Hour: A Natural History of Home*, (University of Wisconsin Press, 2022) by Alison Townsend. Townsend, like Zamora, is a poet, a UW-Whitewater professor emerita of English. She's also an essayist or creative non-fiction writer, and like Zamora's *Solito*, *The Green Hour* is a memoir, told through a series of essays. They're about living across America—from Townsend's home in Pennsylvania to California and Oregon, before she eventually settled



in the Madison area. Townsend doesn't spare us or herself the hard parts of her life—re-examining the early death of her mother from cancer, a failed first marriage, time in a psych ward—but we know she's come through thanks to resilience, loved ones, and the natural world she carefully observes and describes. Reviewers have called the book "a love song to the wild," a book of "breathtaking beauty and emotional honesty," and it is. For those of you who may want an introduction to Townsend's work, I recommend *The Persistence of Rivers: An Essay on Moving Water* (Burrow Press, 2017), which is included in *The Green Hour*. If you've ever wondered about the meaning of home, of place, of belonging—these are books for you.

And how can I not include one of the recent reads for my book club. Over the years, we've discussed nearly 150 works, a mix of fiction and non-fiction, most with international themes. A few months ago, we tackled Ukrainian writer and photographer Yevgenia Beloruset's *Lucky Breaks* (New Directions, 2018, trans. Eugene Ostashevsky). Admittedly, these short stories are not for everyone—they're at times surreal, at best quirky and offbeat. But if you are interested in exploring the work of Ukrainian writers and the psychic as well as physical consequences of war, begin with this spare book. Riotous, at times as funny as they are dark, the stories talk about the earlier conflict (aka war) in eastern Ukraine, in 2014, and its effects on the lives of women who have become internal refugees, living in Kyiv.

And a note in passing—Regent neighborhood poet and novelist Rosemary Zurlo-Cuva died January 3. Born in Milwaukee and a UW-Madison alumna, she was the author of a chapbook, *The Beauty of This World* (Parallel Press, 2014), a novel, *Travel for Agoraphobics* (published as an e-book in 2011), and many articles featured in Wisconsin magazines. She was profiled in the newsletter's July 2022 Poets' Corner. The neighborhood will miss her. ■



Greetings from Randall!

Each time I roll or stroll down the bike path, I feel the rumble of the bygone railroad underground. As a child, my family traveled on tracks from Louisiana to my mother's home state of Wisconsin. Madison was a major stop for us. These days, as I pass familiar faces and places along the tarmac trail, I still hear the conductor's call, "All aboard!"

Actually, I treasure any form of public transportation, especially the city bus. My heart races a little whenever I see the big burly beast approaching. Admittedly, my feet have had to do some racing on occasion to guarantee my intended rendezvous. I always know I am a welcome and privileged passenger, as are all with whom I share the ride. Folks settle in wherever they like and the stop request cord is pulled by hands of all shapes and sizes - and colors.

I learned recently how important it is to tug that cable. I was loaded with luggage on the No. 20 to the airport. I stood upon our arrival at the terminal, but no stop was made. I called out to the driver who countered, "You didn't pull the cord." While putting in some unexpected paces from the next drop off spot, I came to accept his point. Lesson learned.

My first city bus ride was in the Jim Crow South. I was accompanied by my second mother. I called her "Weez" (Elouise). She called me "Spote" (Sport), as she did until her passing not so many years ago. I can still feel the thrill of seeing that metal monster moving down Jackson Street, coming to a stop, and opening its doors. I jumped right on and found a sweet seat in the front. Weez told me that place was not for us. I questioned the driver. "We can't sit here?" He responded, "You can. She can't." Weez took my hand and we moved to the back.

Children amass so many messages so early in their lives. Guidance is needed at times to help them sort things out. My father used to speak in axioms, among them his proclamation that if you want to succeed in life, you have to have the tickets. I learned in time his focus was on education, not public transportation.

During Black History Month and all times, with our recollection of a historic railroad and city bus ride, I am humbled to belong to a school district that is unapologetically committed to Black Excellence and places its highest priority on our African American students. I see our schools as being like metro motor



Randall scholars remind their principal John Wallace what to do when the city bus nears the airport.

coaches featuring gifted tour guides. All are welcome and equal, having their own vision of where they wish to go and what they plan to do when they arrive. My hope is that the scholars enjoy the ride so much that they forget to pull the cord.

Go Raccoons!

John ■

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Greetings from Franklin Elementary

I hope that this newsletter finds all of you warm and safe, and enjoying the early weeks of 2023! Our Franklin Falcons have been very busy since I last shared an update with you, including finding lost gingerbread people throughout the school, and learning about winter holidays throughout the world.



*Franklin Elementary
School's new principal,
Emily Powers*

Late in the fall, our school introduced the Fabulous Falcon award, a weekly award given to a student from every class who demonstrates our Franklin Values (Family, Kindness, Trust and Joy) during that week. Students receive a certificate and have their pictures taken, which is added to our Fabulous Falcon showcase near our main office. If you can recall the feeling of hearing your own name announced for an award, you can begin to imagine a student's joy and excitement having to come down to the office to receive this one. There is really nothing like it!

Before we left for Winter Break our Franklin community collected 251 pounds of food and \$150 for the Second Harvest food bank! This community service project was linked to our First grade's learning of wants and needs in social studies.

When we welcomed students back to school from Winter Break, an exciting thing was waiting for them—the gymnastics equipment in the gym! Students will be practicing their flexibility and balance skills in Physical Education through mid-February. We have some pretty great gymnasts among us, and I've been impressed with the strength students have demonstrated so far with this new challenge!

Thank you all for your continued support of our students and staff! Take care and be well!

Emily Powers, Franklin Elementary Principal ■



Students try out new gym equipment at Franklin School.



Some of the items collected for Second Harvest, part of Franklin School's community service project.



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Poets' Corner *(continued from page 9)*

read a short story. The girls drank lemonade, then adjourned “a happy band.” One wonders if the girls outgrew the meetings, or if the press of schoolwork and family responsibilities proved too great.

¹Buell, a UW alumnus born in Sun Prairie, was a Republican state assemblyman (1885–1886) and assistant state attorney general (1899–1903). Martha Buell was an educator, the president of the Wisconsin Federation of Women’s Clubs. Ely, a New York native and noted economist, became a UW faculty member in 1892, hired as director of the new School of Economics, Political Science and History.

His controversial views led to one of the most important academic freedom trials, leading to UW’s commitment to a “sifting and winnowing” process. Hillyer, a UW alumnus from Waupun, joined the faculty in 1885 in chemistry. Knowlton, a Bostonian, joined the UW faculty in 1890 as a teacher of rhetoric and English. Smith, from South Carolina, was professor of Greek and classical philology beginning in 1894. Various sources including The State Historical Society archives, and *The University of Wisconsin: Its History and Its Alumni*, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites (1900). ■

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News from West High School—

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! As we enter the new year we must always stop and reflect. While the past few years have had their ups and downs, here at West, we continue to move forward thinking positively about what is to come. That said, I would like to acknowledge our amazing staff for the countless ways they continue to guide and teach our students. The ongoing support from the community has also been a blessing this past year especially.



Daniel Kigeya, West High School Principal

We are grateful to be able to do what we love—and that is working with students. They make us smile every day!

Teaching and learning continue in earnest, but construction is also moving along with our new building. Locker rooms that will connect to a hallway leading to the new pool and gym! The current phase of interior renovations is focused on the third-floor south wing, which includes science and biology classrooms, and offices. Environmental work is complete, and demolition in these spaces is nearly finished. Crews will soon start working on the infrastructure for the walls and above the ceilings for the new biology rooms.

Thank you for all your support!

Dan Kigeya, Principal ■



Masons have started installing concrete masonry unit (CMU) block walls on the new gym space. (Photo: MMSD)



Locker rooms are complete on the first floor below Stevens gym. (Photo: MMSD)

Where In the Neighborhood?

In the last edition of the newsletter, we featured a picture of one of the posts or birdhouses in the garden at the eastern corner of the triangle park at Hollister and Commonwealth Avenues. It's a kind of "school garden," tended by Blessed Sacrament and appreciated by many of BS's students, not to mention others in the neighborhood. No one guessed the identity and location of this mystery item. Have another try. Where and what is this? ■



Where in the neighborhood is this?

Can you find it?

Tell us about it.

Email Ronnie at rlhess@wisc.edu

News from Blessed Sacrament School

by BSS's September Liller and Elizabeth First

Happy Winter from Blessed Sacrament School! Crazy to think that we are already more than halfway through the school year.

BSS kicked off a busy winter with a Middle School student dance. Students had a great time dancing and eating pizza. Our middle school program has grown exponentially, and it has been fun to add activities for this growing group of students.

To begin the holiday season, BSS had its second community service project of the year, Operation Christmas Child (OCC). BSS has participated in OCC for the past few years. The program is run by Samaritan's Purse and collects "shoeboxes" full of toys and personal items to send out to children in need all over the world. We filled 300 boxes with small trinkets and necessities, and we've learned that our boxes will go to Ukrainian children. BSS students love this project—it helps to teach them about people in need and how communities can come together to provide help. Each student adds a personal touch with a special note or picture to each box they help pack.

Back just in time for its 100th anniversary, Blessed Sacrament parish held its annual Christmas Market. The annual cookie walk was back in action along with the countryside market and scholastic book fair. Artisans galore made "shopping local" very easy.



Students participating in Blessed Sacrament School's community service project, Operation Christmas Child, filled 300 boxes of trinkets and necessities for Ukrainian children.

We were thrilled to have our annual Christmas Concert in person this year. After two years of virtual, it was a blessing to gather together and moving to hear the students narrate the traditional scripture readings, stories and music.

Picking right up in January, our students held a diaper drive for families in need and prepared to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The week is filled with fun activities and always includes a volleyball game with the 8th graders facing the teachers. Teachers have won for the past several years and we'll keep you posted about this year's match.

Next up is our Spaghetti Dinner in March! Join us for a delicious meal and great company on March 12.

For more information on Blessed Sacrament School, please visit school.blsacrament.org or call the school office at 608-233-6155.

September Liller (sliller@school.blsacrament.org) and Elizabeth First (efirst@school.blsacrament.org) ■



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Regent Market Co-op News—100 Years and Counting

Hello neighbors and happy new year from the Regent Market Co-op! We are excited to celebrate The Little Store's centennial this year and we hope that you will join us in doing so.

Some neighbors may know—or even remember!—when our store opened, in 1923. Many more probably remember Joe Heggstad owning the store from 1974 to 1995; they may even still call the store “Joe’s.” Hopefully, all neighbors know it as your reliable neighborhood little co-op that could. Since 1998, when nearly 1,000 friends and neighbors of the store banded together to form a co-op, the market has been owned by its members. Its size and ambition have changed, and we have relied on the support of generous volunteers, donors, bondholders, and neighborhood shoppers to make those changes possible. Maybe your New Year’s resolution is to shop locally. Or maybe you don’t feel like waiting in a long



or self-check-out line the next time you need a gallon of milk, a loaf of bread and locally-grown bok choy. Whatever your reason, we hope that you will join your neighbors in becoming a member or just shopping your locally owned and operated Regent Market Co-op. Here’s to the next 100 years!

Larry Dooley

Regent Market Co-op Board Member ■



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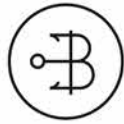
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Madison Mystery Interview *(continued from page 20)*

ists to some degree, and we do a lot of switching around various vocal and instrumental duties. Aviv makes these assignments, but we also confer and negotiate on these matters. There have been several personnel changes. Although we only have two of the original charter members, our current lineup has been in place for three years, and we feel like we're continuing to grow and improve. We also have more than a dozen wind and string "guest musicians" who assist us in the big instrumental pieces from albums like Sgt. Pepper and Abbey Road.

Newsletter: Where have you performed and how much of a following do you have?

Morgan: One of our first homes was the Club Tavern in Middleton (now closed) where we did four or five early shows, including the first four albums. In 2015 we moved to the Harmony Bar on Willy Street for the "Help" and "Rubber Soul" shows, then to the much larger High Noon Saloon in 2016 for "Revolver." In 2017 we graduated to the Barrymore Theater for "Sgt. Pepper," where we've played most of our album shows since then (all, happily, sold out). We've also done festivals at Willy Street, Orton Park, and Marquette Waterfront.

Newsletter: Do you have any favorite Beatles songs?

Morgan: We all have our favorites, but because we're all experienced and semi-serious musicians, we have a sort of scholarly appreciation for all the music. If I

had to personally boil it down to one song that encapsulates what I admire most about the Beatles, it might be "Day Tripper," but there are so many others that come to mind as well. My favorite albums are "Revolver" and "The White Album."

Newsletter: Do you have a day job?

Morgan: Technically, I'm the only one who doesn't. I'm a retired music educator. Aviv Kammay is the music teacher at Wingra School; Geoff Blake-Horst teaches history at LaFollette High School; Bill Guetschow is a tech support and media consultant at Oakwood; and Sean Michael Dargan is an accomplished singer-songwriter in his own right. He also manages booking and production for music at the Memorial Union.

Newsletter: Finally, what's to love about the Beatles?

Morgan: Even though the Beatles, as an active band, ceased to exist more than 50 years ago, their continued cultural and artistic relevance internationally and intergenerationally is undeniable. As performing musicians, we feel especially fortunate to be able to experience and interact with their music in a very personal way that goes beyond just nostalgia or fandom. Although we do approach their music in a fairly serious way, our performances feel genuinely joyful and exuberant, and our audiences seem to share that feeling. ■



Regent Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 5655
Madison, WI 53705

Meet The Beatles, Um, Your Neighbor, Steve Morgan— A Madison Mystery Interview

According to his official online bio, Steve Morgan, Regent neighbor and past Director of Bands at West High School (1997–2011), has also played guitar and bass since he was a kid. No surprise then that along his musical way he became an ardent Beatles fan. After a long career as a music educator, Steve's continued interest in the Fab Four led to his joining with "Get Back Wisconsin," a group established in 2012 by founder/leader Aviv Kammay. Now called "Madison Mystery Tour," the group is dedicated to studying and performing every song in the Beatles' core catalogue. Over the past ten years, the band has appeared at numerous venues, including sold-out performances at the Barrymore Theater. Morgan sat down to answer some questions via email about the group's next project, a celebration of the 1970s reissue of Beatles hits from 1962 to 1966, known as "the Red Album," at the Barrymore, Saturday Feb. 18.

Newsletter: How long have you lived in the neighborhood, and do your neighbors ever complain about your music?

Morgan: We've been in the Hillington Green area since 1986. No complaints: my neighbors all appreciate what I do, and we rehearse elsewhere.

Newsletter: How long have you been a Beatles fan?

Morgan: I grew up in the 1960s. The Beatles, for me, lasted from 7th grade through my freshman year in college. I was a musician from a musical family and started playing guitar when I was 12, so it was pretty inevitable. Now, 50 years later, I am essentially rediscovering the Beatles with a musical understanding and ear for detail that I didn't have when I was young.



Members of the Madison Mystery Tour ensemble—from left to right, Geoff Blake-Horst, Steven Morgan, Sean Michael Dargan, Bill Guetschow, and Aviv Kammay.

Newsletter: Tell us about the band. Have the players changed at all? Who are you—John, Paul, George, or Ringo?

Morgan: The band started in late 2012; it was the vision of our leader (and youngest member) Aviv Kammay, the music teacher at Wingra School. He put out a Craigslist ad and got a group of four others to start work on the "mission," which was to perform every Beatles album (the official British canon) in its entirety, on or around the 50th anniversary of its original release. The focus was to be exclusively on the music, striving for as much accuracy and attention to detail as possible, with no interest in impersonation, wigs, costumes, or assigning character roles. I was not an original member, but joined in the fall of 2013, just one album into the journey. I am the primary bass player, so in that sense I have a sort of "Paul" role, but unlike him, I don't sing many lead vocals. I also play guitar and keyboard at times. All of us are multi-instrumental-

(continued on page 19)

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,900. The deadline for the May edition is March 30, 2023. We welcome articles of general interest to the neighborhood about local history or personalities and discussions of local issues. Please send items or inquiries to Ronnie Hess at rlhess@wisc.edu.