



Regent Neighborhood

February 2022 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION

Indian Mounds North of Monroe Street

by **Teri Venker***

One winter day in 1908 when Monroe Street was still on the outskirts of Madison and Native Americans were living on the western area of Lake Wingra to fish, trap muskrats and harvest large turtles, an elderly Ho-Chunk man knocked on the Monroe Street door of Charles E. Brown. Brown had recently moved to Madison from Milwaukee to be the Wisconsin Historical Society's director, a post he held for 36 years.

Brown reported the Ho-Chunk man was looking for food for his family. As a result, Brown developed a relationship with the family, visiting them in their seasonal encampment numerous times to get to know them and their culture. Brown developed extensive, lifelong ties with Indigenous Wisconsin communities, learning about their histories, beliefs, and their place names relative to the Madison area.

As a result of Brown's dedication and intervention with Madison authorities and developers, he and the Ho-Chunk preserved many of the Indian Mounds that still exist in the DeJoep (Four Lakes) area.



Teri Venker

Indigenous people built the mounds beginning in 800 BCE in conical and later linear shapes, and from roughly 700–1200 AD they created the mounds in the shapes of animals and water spirits, now referred to as effigy mounds. Almost all mounds throughout Wisconsin are on hills overlooking or near water, such as lakes and springs, since those were considered portals to the underworld in general Native American cosmology. Some mounds are known to contain burials, and all are considered to have had spiritual and ceremonial significance.

Unfortunately, the construction of roads and buildings, as well as farm plowing, destroyed almost 80 percent of the mounds that existed at one time throughout Wisconsin.

One example of mound destruction in Madison involves a glacial moraine a half-mile long and about five stories tall that existed between Lakes Wingra and Monona, near St. Mary's Hospital. This "Dividing Ridge" overlooking Lake Wingra contained between 23 and 70 mounds (depending on how surveyors counted individual mounds rather than groupings). By the late 19th century Madisonians wanted to fill in the marshes around Lake Wingra, and the Dividing Ridge's sand, gravel and Indian Mounds were hauled away by wagonloads to help fill in the marshlands. *(continued on page 10)*

Join the RNA Google Group—groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn



Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

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A Note from the President

The RNA is happy to join with the Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association to sponsor a 2nd annual neighborhood winter snow sculpture event. We invite everyone to look for a time in the coming month to build your snow sculpture, snow fort, or snow people or other snow wonder, and share with your neighbors. Sculptures must be visible from a public area and snow or ice must be the primary medium. Snow or ice can be colored (please use environmentally friendly coloring). Materials/items which are not snow or ice can be used as an accessory, but not a primary feature or support. Lights are permitted as decoration. Snow Sculpture or Snow Person can have been constructed anytime during 2020/2021 winter.



*RNA Board President
Jon Miskowski*

Watch the RNA website or the RNA listserv for deadlines and details on how to register to participate.

As plans advance for Hoyt School being repurposed into Capital High, join us for the February 22nd RNA Board meeting to meet Principal Quinn Craugh to talk about the Capital High program and plans.

Thanks to Jeremy Levin for his service representing us on the Dane County Board for more than 13 years. While his newsletter article marks his last contribution to the RNA newsletter as a Dane County Board member, we know that his community contributions will continue with his commitment to health care and other issues.

Thanks to all contributors to the RNA newsletter highlighting our active neighborhood and engaged neighbors.

— Jon

Join the RNA Google Group—

groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn

Upcoming RNA Board Meetings

• **February 22, 2022**

• **March 22, 2022**

The RNA Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month via Zoom until further notice. Zoom meeting information will be posted on the RNA listserv the day before the meeting. These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to jonmiskowski@gmail.com.

Alder Report—District 5

Housing Forward?

No one would be surprised to learn that Madison has issues with housing, particularly affordable housing. Over the past decade, more than one-third of Wisconsin's population growth has occurred in Dane County, adding more than 73,000 people. The price per square foot of a single-family home in Madison increased from \$95 in 2000 to \$169 in 2019, and if recent home sales are any indication, these rising prices show no evidence of slowing down. The prices of "starter homes" have risen faster than incomes for households at 80% of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Area Family Median Income since 2013. This means a higher number of households are being priced out of owning their own homes, even when homeownership for people in these income tiers was previously attainable. Rental affordability is not much better, and disparities are apparent: while the average White Madison resident can afford to rent in most parts of the city, by 2016 the typical Black Madison household could only afford rents in two areas of the city – the North side, and South Madison. Hispanic/Latino Madison residents face similar housing affordability constraints as their Black neighbors.

With these data points in mind, the Mayor's December 2021 Housing Forward update provided a summary of the progress that has been made. To increase housing choice, Madison has:

- Adopted a zoning ordinance to allow more housing as permitted use.
- Adopted zoning changes allowing for higher density outside downtown.
- Adopted legislation to make accessory dwelling units a permitted use with a companion loan program.

There is also an effort to proactively rezone areas to match future planned uses, including areas around Milwaukee Street, Oscar Mayer, Odana Road, East Towne, and South Madison.

Creating affordable housing is a bit more complex. Wisconsin state statutes prohibit municipalities from undertaking rent control or zoning that is inclusionary. That is, in spite of our need for affordable housing, Madison is unable to require that housing developments include a certain number



Alder Regina Vidaver
Photo: Jeanine Schneider

or percentage of units that are affordable. (These state statutes also prevent Madison from requiring environmentally-friendly building and redevelopment.) Nonetheless, we have made some progress:

- Invested in affordable housing development projects and increased the size of the Affordable Housing Fund. So far, City support has helped build 862 new units of affordable housing in Madison, and another 810 are in the pipeline, including 79 units in the affordable housing complex planned in our District on University Avenue. (Groundbreaking is planned for spring 2022.)
- Refocused affordable housing funding applications to prioritize transit access, very low-income housing, and longer-term affordability.
- Established a \$1 million annual fund and a policy for land-banking—or buying land that we can later leverage for the development of affordable housing.

Going forward, ChangeLab Solutions, "a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that uses the tools of law and policy to advance health equity," will be working with City staff to identify even more options to support affordable housing.

Gentrification, or the process of wealthier people moving into previously poor areas, and displacing current inhabitants, is always a danger with housing improvements in lower-resourced areas. To ensure the City does all we can to prevent gentrification, the following efforts have been undertaken:

- Established a biannual Housing Forward grant process. The grants help create affordable homeownership, cohousing, small multi-family buildings, and lease/purchase options for people and neighborhoods at risk of gentrification/displacement. Funding for Housing Forward grants was increased from \$1 million to \$2 million in the 2022 budget, and targeted funding was added to preserve, renovate, or replace naturally occurring affordable housing, which is generally in slightly older buildings.
- Supported down payment assistance to create 125 new homeowners of color in five years.
- Developed a Small Scale Development Loan Program for projects needing funding outside typical granting timelines.

The price of housing itself isn't the only issue impacting affordability: property taxes have the potential to rise faster than homeowners can afford, particularly if they are living on fixed incomes. While the major share of a

(continued on page 4)

Alder Report *(continued from page 3)*

Madison property owner's tax is determined by the Madison Metropolitan School District budget, the property taxes imposed by the City of Madison, Dane County, and Madison College also contribute to our overall tax bills. That's why programs like the City's Rehabilitation Loans and Property Tax Assistance for Older Adults programs are so important for keeping people in their homes. The City has also:

- Strengthened anti-retaliation enforcement from landlords on tenants in a partnership through City Building Inspections and the Department of Civil Rights.
- Used \$22 million in federal COVID funding to prevent evictions and strengthen tenant protection and mediation remedies in subsidized housing.
- Increased funding to the Eviction Defense Program by \$1.7 million.
- Funded energy and water conservation upgrades in naturally occurring affordable housing.

Of course, the worst outcome of a lack of affordable housing is people living unhoused. During the pandemic, municipalities were advised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to allow people who were unhoused to remain living outdoors, including in parks. This advice ultimately led to a very large encampment of unhoused people in Reindahl Park on the city's East side. There were multiple acts of violence and substance misuse, and as the census of the park's inhabitants grew, safety deteriorated. I am proud of the temporary steps the City was able to take to get people into shelter, including at our Dairy Drive campground and a local hotel. We also were able to secure funding for a purpose-built men's shelter. But these are band-aids on an ever-growing problem, which will take all of

us working collectively to solve. While some people believe individuals who are unhoused are responsible for their own plight, the reality is that no one chooses to be unhoused. It is a situation brought about by complex circumstances, including mental health needs, substance misuse, challenging or nonexistent family connections, and bad luck.

If you're interested in getting involved, there are several organizations working in this space, including the YWCA, Urban League, Habitat for Humanity, Porchlight, MACH OneHealth, the Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Madison Area Community Land Trust, Housing Initiatives, the Road Home, Madison Roots, and others. All these organizations need volunteers and funding. While we have made a lot of progress in working to fill the gaps in Madison's housing needs, there is still so much more to be done to give every one of our neighbors an opportunity to have reliable, affordable, and dignified shelter.

Regina Vidaver, 5th District Alder ■

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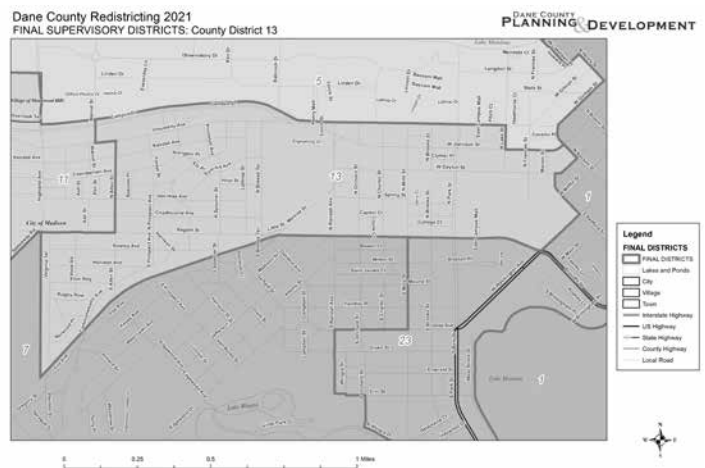
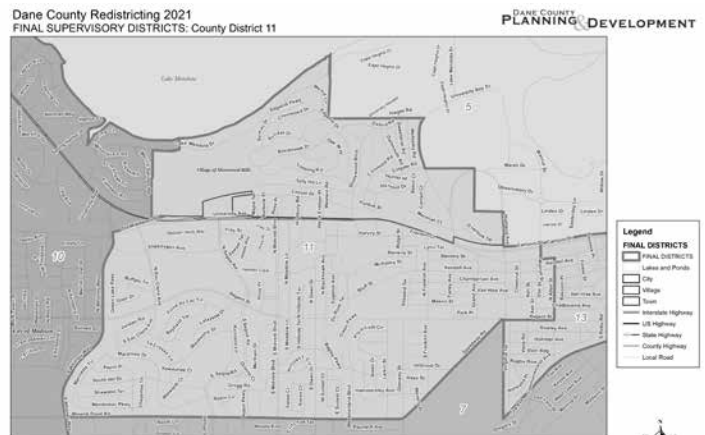
Dane County Board Report—District 10

I hope this edition of the RNA Newsletter finds you and your family safe and healthy, and enjoying the new year. The Dane County Board continues to meet virtually, something that does not appear to be changing before my term will be up in April.

In November, the Dane County Board of Supervisors voted to approve a final supervisory district map, which was the result of a redistricting process that took place during the pandemic. The 2021 redistricting process used a new format that the Board approved in 2016, which included creation of a non-partisan redistricting commission to solicit maps from members of the public and then submit three recommended maps for consideration by the Board. The map will be used for the next ten years for elections and County Board representation. Unfortunately, the Regent Neighborhood Association got split between two new districts 11 and 13. As the nomination process has closed, District 11 (the western half of RNA) will be represented by Richelle Andrae, who will be running for her second term; and District 11 (the eastern half of RNA) will be represented by first-time candidate Olivia Xistris-Songpanya.



Supervisor Jeremy Levin



In December, members of the Public Works and Transportation Committee held an informational meeting about the proposed Waste and Renewables Sustainability Campus and landfill project, details can be found here: landfill.countyofdane.com/projects/WastandRenewableProjects/Sustainability-Campus

It is projected that there are less than 10 years of landfill space remaining at Dane County's Rodefild Landfill. The County is proposing to use a portion of the Yahara Hills Golf Course as the next site for the landfill, which will include development of a sustainable business park or "Sustainability Campus" to divert waste and create local circular economies. This will be accomplished by attracting reuse, repair, and recycling businesses; new waste management technologies; and research.

Should you or your family have an interest in specific Dane County projects or initiatives, please contact me at levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us or call me at 608.577.9335. Again, it has been an honor to serve the neighborhood as your supervisor for these past seven terms. Thank you.

Jeremy Levin ■

An advertisement for Lauer Realty Group. It features a black and white photo of a family (a man, a woman, and a child) moving into a new home, carrying boxes. The text reads: "LAUER REALTY GROUP Powerful Results. Real People. Helping moments like this become a reality. We make the big moves happen." At the bottom, it provides the website "www.LauerRealtyGroup.com" and the phone number "608.467.3220".

From Representative Shelia Stubbs Wisconsin, Assembly District 77

Thank you members of the Regent Neighborhood for giving me the chance once again to contribute to this newsletter. It truly is an honor to continue representing you all, as well as the rest of the 77th Assembly District. Since the last newsletter, the Wisconsin State Capitol has had a flurry of activity. I hope you find these updates informative:



*Representative
Shelia Stubbs*

In October, I proudly introduced the Birth Equity Act to remove barriers to appropriate and affordable prenatal and postpartum care, treatment, and resources. In Wisconsin, Black, Brown, and Indigenous pregnant people are three to five times more likely to experience death or life-threatening complications during pregnancy and childbirth. In order to combat these unacceptable disparities, the Birth Equity Act provides a free postpartum at-home visit within the first two weeks of delivery, repeals Wisconsin's harmful birth cost recovery law, mandates insurance coverage of maternal mental health risk screenings, establishes pregnancy as a qualifying event for employer-sponsored health insurance plans, removes the sales tax on breastfeeding equipment and supplies, and expands access to dental care for pregnant Badger Care recipients. This bill package is a significant first step towards health equity in our state and a sign that we can make systemic changes for Wisconsin's mothers and infants.

Also in October, the Wisconsin State Assembly held a floor session that passed AB 6/SB 16. This bill is a clear attempt to interfere with the personal choices of patients and their physicians. I voted against this partisan legislation and will continue to stand by the rights of pregnant people in our state. I believe that deciding to start a family, delaying becoming a parent, or ending a pregnancy are some of the most personal decisions an individual can make. Governor Evers vetoed this bill and I plan to uphold his veto if it is brought again to the Assembly floor.

In November, The Vel Phillips Statue Taskforce, which I am a part of, received approval to place a statue of Vel Phillips at the South entrance of the Wisconsin State Capitol. Vel Phillips was a trailblazer, a woman of many firsts. She was the

first Black woman to graduate from UW-Madison Law School, the first to serve on the Milwaukee Common Council, the first to serve as a judge in Milwaukee County, and the first to serve as the Secretary of State of Wisconsin. Additionally, she was devoted to fighting against housing discrimination in Milwaukee. Vel Phillips' service and legacy are an inspiration across our state, and I am proud to have helped enshrine her work on the grounds of the Capitol. This is the first statue in the country to honor a Black woman in a state capitol.

Also in November, the Wisconsin State Assembly held another floor session that passed legislation related to legislative redistricting (SB 621/AB 624 and SB 622/AB 625). This partisan gerrymander supports an unjust status quo and ignores the need for fairly divided legislative districts. These maps have since been vetoed by Governor Evers' and I plan to uphold his veto. I believe that Wisconsin deserves a fair and transparent redistricting process, safe from gerrymandering or the favoring of one party over another. Wisconsinites deserve to choose their representatives, not the other way around.

In other community news, I want to extend my congratulations to Briarpatch on 50 years of service in Dane County! What started as a small group of volunteers coming together is now a flourishing agency that offers numerous resources and programs for runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth. Thank you, Briarpatch, for your dedication to creating a safe space for the youth and families of Dane County!

Thank you for taking the time to read this legislative update! 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. ■

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Greetings from Randall

Confucius is credited with sharing, "Choose a job you love, and you will never work a day in your life." I stand among the fortunate who have done so. While my title of teacher has remained the same, both I and my job have changed quite a bit since we first met.

In an age of increased accountability, limited time, and prescribed curriculum, education has sacrificed some of its art for science. We proclaim our commitment to teach to the "whole child," yet measures are more quantitative than qualitative. Today's pedagogues are met with an increased demand for student academic achievement and less discretion as to what is imparted and how.

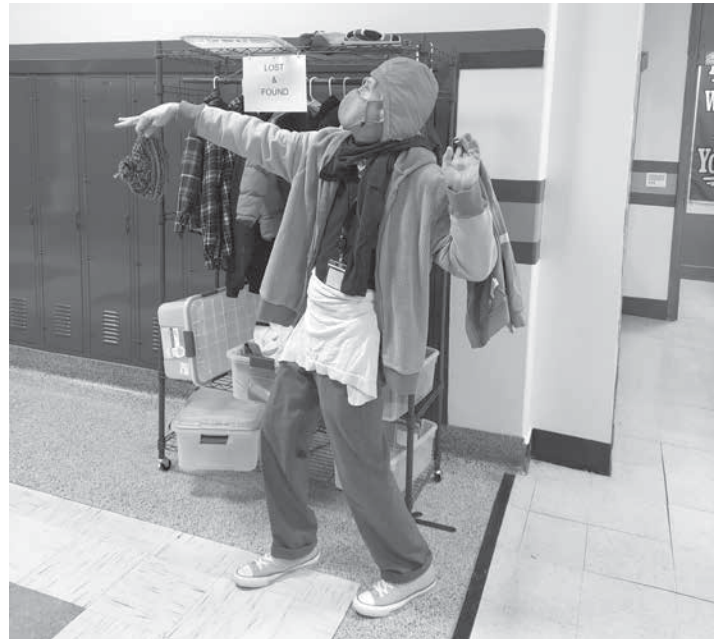
I'm reminded of visiting schools in Japan where uniforms are the norm. Scholars take full advantage of the minimal allowance of personal ornamental expression through accessories such as scarves, jewelry, and socks. I observe this same phenomenon when I visit classrooms where five different grade level teachers deliver the same issued lesson. At every opportunity, having first made sure all essential ingredients are in the pot, they add their own special spice to the presentation.

Not that long ago, teachers flew solo in their silos, untethered to standards and methodology. Then came the formation of teams designed for instructors to share the load and pool their strengths. The arrangement that promised to enhance their work put team members at odds with one another from time-to-time. Folks had to compromise, which was much easier for some than for others.

I employed this expectation with my charges as part of a unit about France I taught years ago. I prepared boxes of various fabrics and items. I then directed small groups to collectively create an ensemble, including a narrative to describe its elements. A fashion show followed with Edith Piaf singing in the background. What made this activity most challenging was not the limited materials and time, but rather the necessity for collaboration. One of the requirements of the design was that each student's idea had to be represented in the final product. Our teachers face the same challenge in their coplanning.

Many hands make light work, as long as the helping hands are appreciated. Some of my sons' closest childhood friends are now leaders of the world-renowned Indie music groups *Bon Iver* and *Polica*. While recently visiting with the drummer from the latter, he shared his excitement about his band's latest recording. Andy noted that it wasn't so much the music itself that made the recording so exceptional as much as that, on this album, everyone

regentneighborhood.org



Randall Principal John Wallace goes for chic, donning vintage garb.

contributed somewhat equally. This spirit of collegiality and mutual appreciation has flourished with our teaching teams during the Covid crisis. As a result, staff have increased both their individual and collective capacities. For all of the losses during the pandemic, the unparalleled staff unity at Randall has been a gain.

Go Raccoons!

John ■



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West High School Report

Happy New Year!

One of the things we know for sure about teaching during a pandemic is that things can change, and they can change rapidly. That's where we find ourselves now as we return to school after Winter Break.

Your child's teachers totally stepped up. On our first day back, we met and laid out the changes, and staff immediately began to refresh their virtual lessons, Google Classrooms, and technical skills necessary to make things seamless. I am so very proud of West; no one complained—oh, people asked a TON of questions—and no one pushed back. What a pleasure it is to work with such professionals. The most common response has been, "Karen, what can I do to help?"

You can't know how awesome it feels for a high school principal to lead such a school.



Karen Boran

Part of that comes from you and your kids. We do the hard thing, and we work the extra hours because we completely believe that your children are worth it. This year has been hard—the impact of the pandemic has affected almost every part of our lives—and when you compound that with nearly 2,500 people in a building half the size of a city block, that's a big impact. West's Student Services team works with our teachers and staff to support students and families who have felt the impact hardest. Please don't hesitate to contact either of our fabulous school social workers, Shari Weinstein at sweinstein@madison.k12.wi.us or Eve Bertrand at ebertrand@madison.k12.wi.us, if you are interested in donating to our support of West families in need or if you could use some support yourself. We're here to help.

I wish you a healthy and happy 2022.

Karen Boran

Principal, West High School ■

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News from Blessed Sacrament School

For more information, contact September Liller (sliller@school.blsacrament.org) or Elizabeth First (efirst@school.blsacrament.org)

Blessed Sacrament School nurtures servant leadership, from three-year-old kindergarten through 8th grade. Each trimester all-school service projects involve every student. Blessed Sacrament School (BSS) Principal Steve Castrogiovanni believes an important part of his job is to instill a sense of purpose in students along with an acknowledgement that each has a responsibility to serve those in need.

“Excellence in academics is a given, but service to others is what sets us apart,” Castrogiovanni says. “Older students help the younger ones and it’s great bonding, in addition to showing students they can make a difference in our world.”

The annual BSS Hunger March was held on a beautiful fall day and was a huge success! Students put their “best foot forward” in collecting pledges before the march, and in walking, and outright sprinting around the block on the day of the event. Students raised a record \$18,500 and chose local food banks and meal programs to receive funding, as well as regional, national, and international programs working to establish food security for vulnerable populations.

Another project, creating gift boxes for Samaritan’s Purse—Operation Christmas Child—was up next. Students collected stuffed animals, small board games, dominos, and the like as well as hair ribbons, school supplies, and personal hygiene products for children around the world. The students packed the items along with handmade greeting cards into shoe-box-size cartons. More than 200 boxes were filled, going to Malawi and Colombia.



Pastor Andy McAlpin, O.P., leads children in prayer, as part of the school’s Operation Christmas Child. Photo: Jill Leland

Another service project this year will be the “Bundle the Bottoms Brigade,” an annual diaper drive for Pregnancy Helpline, a non-profit serving Madison families with pregnancy and infant-related needs. Last year, Blessed Sacrament collected more than 14,000 diapers. Pregnancy Helpline projects that it will distribute about 20,000 diapers per month this year, so we have increased our goal to 20,000.

Blessed Sacrament Parish is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Our school celebrates 98 years of academic excellence and continues to invite students and their families from the Regent Neighborhood and beyond to learn and grow in the values of truth, justice, compassion, partnership, and community. Enrollment is now open for 2022–2023. For more information, please contact the school office at (608) 233-6155 or visit school.blsacrament.org. ■



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Indian Mounds *(continued from page 1)*

A few examples of Indian Mounds can be found in the Regent Neighborhood, at Forest Hill Cemetery. An effigy mound group of most of a goose, two water spirits or panthers, and a linear mound still exist. A bird effigy oriented towards the wetlands had its head destroyed when a 19th century railroad was built adjacent to the cemetery. A walking tour brochure is available at the cemetery office.

Other existing mounds nearby and north of Monroe Street are on the University of Wisconsin campus. Mounds can be seen just west of the Washburn Observatory on a hill overlooking Lake Mendota, north of the School of Veterinary Medicine along the bike path and near Willow Creek. Near the tip of Picnic Point there are a linear and conical mound on the eastern side, and a conical mound on the western shore.

Additional examples of mounds can be found at Blackhawk Country Club. It's best to look for these in winter when the golfers are not out! A map of the mounds can be obtained from the clubhouse. In addition to the linear and conical mounds, there is a spectacular goose mound effigy on the upslope of a hill with its "flight" oriented not towards the water, as is usual, but in alignment with the angle of the winter solstice. This is considered the best goose mound in the DeJoie area, one of only four. Nearby a panther mound still exists in a private backyard.

Searching for mounds can be very rewarding and reminds us that people long before us found the Four Lakes area special and significant.

* *Teri Venker is a docent and researcher for the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation. She also leads tours of Indian Mounds around the Madison area. This article is one of two she has written about our neighborhood's Indian Mounds—for this newsletter, and for Dudgeon-Monroe's (forthcoming). Venker suggests the following resources for people*



While Indian mounds may be difficult to make out when there's snow cover, this Forest Hill sign tells people where to look.

interested in learning more: Spirits of Earth: The Effigy Mound Landscape of Madison and the Four Lakes, by former state archeologist Robert A. Birmingham, and Indian Mounds of Wisconsin, by Amy Rosebrough, current state archeologist, and Birmingham. ■

**ALL ARE WELCOME HERE.
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Double Cluck*—Taylor Elkins

**Ed: Another article in our series on animal husbandry.*

We bought chickens when our children were at an age where they really wanted a dog. They argued for a dog for years, but we had a rule. Not while we still had a child in diapers. We tried various low maintenance pets like a grasshopper, hermit crabs and a lizard, but they just weren't interactive enough to be satisfying. So, we thought we would try chickens. They only require care about twice a week, although in hot weather you will have to change their water frequently. You'll need a pen, feeders and large enough water tanks.

Our children loved the idea. They cuddled the chicks from day one. Little chicks take quite a bit of work changing the feed and water every day, but we knew that things would get easier. The chickens grew up to be quite friendly and were always excited to see us. They would hover excitedly around the pen door just before the kids got home from school. The kids immediately let the chickens out and devised games such as chicken races, chicken swings made of Hula Hoops and jump ropes. The kids' favorite was walking down the sidewalks with a chicken on their shoulder during football games, baffling football fans. This kept the family entertained through our first round of chickens, for about four or five years. As the girls grew older, they lost interest in the chickens. Eventually they got their dog.

By this point my wife and I were the ones interested in the chickens. We turned all our garden weeds into eggs by feeding them to the chickens. We would throw the weeds into the outside pen and the chickens would tear them apart eating all but the toughest parts. Then a few weeks later we would shovel the remains mixed with chicken manure into our compost pile and let it cook. The compost got so rich that we were producing large plants laden with fruit. The chickens were also useful in the spring and fall vegetable garden clean up. We



*Hallie Elkins with pet hen Goldie, around 2010.
Photo: Elkins Family*

would place the chickens into the vegetable garden, and they would eat all the weed seedlings and bugs that remained churning up the soil as the hens scratched.

We also began to appreciate how the chickens completed the ecological circle by turning our kitchen and garden waste into edible eggs and eating all the garden pests they could find. You can even train chickens to eat Japanese beetles.

We have enjoyed our chickens and would recommend them to people who garden or have children. ■





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Poetry Corner—Daniel Kunene (1923–2016)

Before his death nearly six years ago, Daniel Kunene and his wife Marci Ellis Kunene were neighbors, living on Kendall Avenue. You might see them at poetry and political gatherings around town. Daniel Kunene was both a poet and activist, a tireless voice for peace and justice—alternately soft-spoken and gentle, or tough as steel. Born in South Africa, a graduate of the Universities of South Africa and Cape Town, Kunene found political asylum in the U.S. A professor emeritus at UW–Madison after a thirty-three-year teaching career, he authored sixteen books in English and Sesotho, as well as numerous essays and poems. Marci Kunene sent us this poem to include in the newsletter. She says it always spoke to her “as a true symbol of Daniel’s life and purpose.”



Daniel and Marci Kunene on their way by plane to the Karoo Desert, some 250 miles northeast of Cape Town, to view the South African Large Telescope, the largest in the southern hemisphere. Daniel was the keynote speaker for SALT’s installation in 2011. The UW–Madison was one of SALT’s several partners, along with the South African National Research Foundation. Photo: Kunene Family.

The Butterfly*

Do not presume to tell me, O impetuous man,
Where I may or may not fly;
I am an untamed spirit
Veering with the winds of my choosing.

Your own civilization has become
A narcissistic monster
Whose burial ceremonies will remain unsung
For lack of mourners.

But I am everlasting,
For the spirit that is in me
Cannot be trammelled in the seines of time and space,
But will increasingly mingle with the eternal breezes,
Even as you look at my broken wing,
Or my body,
Mutilated by your tar-squelching monsters of steel,
And, in your ignorance, pronounce me dead.

And therefore, as I flutter-flutter
Or dissect the air in geometric designs,
And light upon these soft petals
Or the trunk of a mighty oak,
My seeming frailty is my strength,
For I, being all Spirit,
Am the very essence of freedom,
And my triumph over your chains
Is the triumph of freedom itself.

—Daniel Kunene

* First published in *Maryknoll* February 1982: 1;
republished in *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar* 2008. ■

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Recipe Corner—Joan Peterson

This recipe was contributed by the Regent Neighborhood's Joan Peterson. She's the author of fourteen books in her *Eat Smart* series of international culinary travel guides, and publisher of Ginkgo Press. She also leads culinary and cultural tours to foreign destinations, along with her daughter and business partner Susan Peterson Chwae. *

Peterson says, "Included in my *Eat Smart* guides are recipes contributed by chefs I have interviewed, as well as people I meet as I travel around a particular country." One of her favorite recipes is for an "especially scrumptious cheesecake," provided by Krakow lawyer Beata Kuczek. The dessert is in the *Eat Smart in Poland* guide. Peterson and Chwae are planning to lead a culinary tour of Poland in August 2022.

**Ed: Full disclosure, I worked with Joan on two culinary travel guides and co-led a tour of Portugal.*

Sernik

Cheesecake. Serves 10–12.

2 ½ sticks butter (10 ounces) plus butter for greasing the pan
Breadcrumbs for bottom of pan
3 ½ cups powdered sugar
10 eggs
2 ¼ pounds Polish white farmer's cheese made from whole milk
¼ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla
6 tablespoons fine-grain durum semolina flour
4 tablespoons powdered sugar for egg whites, plus enough for dusting
Raisins (optional)
Candied orange peel, finely diced (optional)

Butter bottom and sides of a 10 x 2-inch spring-form pan. Lightly sprinkle buttered surface with breadcrumbs and set aside.

In a large bowl, cream the butter. Add a small amount of powdered sugar, mixing well. Separate egg whites from egg yolks. Blend one egg yolk into the butter and powdered sugar mixture. Continue alternating addition of powdered sugar and egg yolks, beating well between each addition. Process cheese twice in a food grinder or food processor until smooth and paste-like, being careful not to overmix, turning the cheese watery. Add cheese to the batter and blend well. Stir in salt, baking powder and vanilla. Add semolina and mix well. If desired, add



Joan Peterson



Sernik

Photo from Eat Smart

raisins and candied orange peel to taste. Beat egg whites until frothy. Slowly add the 4 tablespoons of powdered sugar and beat until whites are stiff but not dry. Gently fold whites into the batter so they retain their loft. Fill spring-form pan with batter. Bake cake on middle rack of preheated oven (350°F) for 1 hour. During baking, cake will rise slightly above top of pan, but will collapse when it cools. Top will be golden brown. Center may be a little soft. As soon as the cake is removed from the oven, place on a serving plate and run a knife around side of pan to loosen it. Dust top with sifted powdered sugar. Refrigerate cake to cool. Remove pan sides when cake has cooled and set. ■

Happy New Year from the Regent Market Co-op

With another year behind us, we could not be more grateful for the support from the neighborhood. We sure hope everyone is healthy and happy. While 2021 might be behind us, the COVID-19 pandemic is unfortunately still going strong here in 2022. We continue to offer a safe way to shop if you are uncomfortable with shopping in person. If you email regentmarketcoop@gmail.com or call 608-233-4329 we will put together your order and take payment with a credit card over the phone. When you come to pick up your order just give us a call from out front, and we will bring your groceries out to your car. If you are a member of the Co-op we can also set up a declining balance on your account. If you are unable to make it to the store and still need groceries, we can deliver to your doorstep for a \$3 delivery charge. We ask that you have patience and understanding at this time with the number of out-of-stock products



occurring from supply chain issues during the pandemic. We're also focused on staff safety and accommodating needed outages. The Co-op has been short staffed at times, but we are still doing our best to take care of you in these times. Thank you once again for supporting your neighborhood Co-op!

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What I'm Reading—Tom Sinclair*

I have devoted many hours as a volunteer to a nonpartisan group called Citizens' Climate Lobby that seeks to avert catastrophic climate change.

To me, it's a no-brainer: the climate crisis is real, serious, and human-caused. We must limit the damage now to ensure our children and *their* children a livable world.

And yet... countless Americans continue to ignore dire warnings from scientists as if the problem didn't exist. How can this be?

In his latest book, *The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet*, Michael Mann describes the sophisticated disinformation campaign conducted by special-interest groups to discredit concerns about global warming. Their goal: instill enough doubt in the general public to thwart a serious response.

Mann, a highly respected climatologist at Penn State University, speaks from experience. He himself has been targeted because of his outspokenness about the hazards of climate change. Still, he remains confident that we can solve the crisis and urges readers not to lose faith. *The New Climate War* delivers an important message to everyone who cares about this issue.

Of course, human susceptibility to disinformation is nothing new. *The King of Confidence*, by Miles Harvey, tells the bizarre-but-true 19th century story of James Jesse Strang. (Some may have heard this book read aloud on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Chapter A Day" in 2020.)

Strang claimed to be the hand-picked successor to Mormon Church founder Joseph Smith, though his only "evidence" was a letter, allegedly from Smith, that surfaced after his death. The letter was a fake, but that didn't stop Strang. He established a settlement of followers in what is now Burlington, Wisconsin, and a second settlement on an island in Lake Michigan—where he promptly declared

independence from the U.S. and himself King of Earth and Heaven.

In reality, Strang was a clever con artist who wrapped himself in bogus claims, attracted similarly opportunistic scoundrels to his inner circle, and through sheer hutzpah became a cult leader with a national reputation.

Author Harvey writes that while Strang is now largely forgotten, people *like* him "never really vanish. When the time is right, they reappear, wearing a new guise, exploiting new fears, offering new dreams of salvation."

Even we who fancy ourselves wise to deception must, at times, question our basic assumptions when viewing the world through a new lens. Journalist Colin Woodard's *American Nations* challenges the common belief that the United States, for most of its existence, has been *united*.

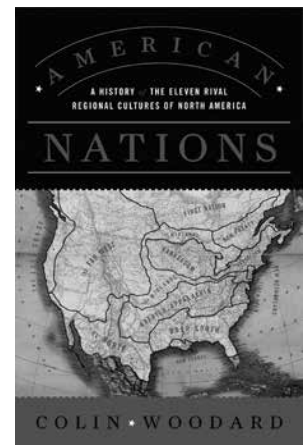
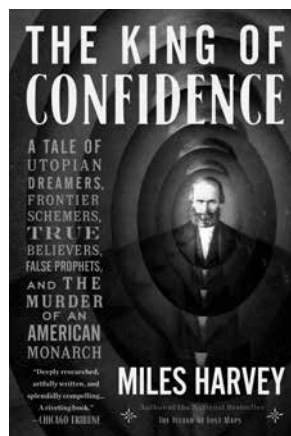
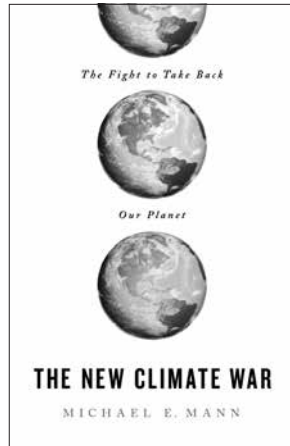
The book's subtitle, *A History of the Eleven Rival Cultures of North America*, reveals Woodard's premise that stark divisions dating back to the arrival of the first European settlers persist to this day and help explain, among other things, our current polarization.

Woodard says state, provincial, and even national boundaries belie the existence of these "nations." And while they may form alliances, they are fundamentally at odds with one another.

American Nations is packed with intriguing facts and observations. I couldn't possibly absorb them all, but nearly every chapter had me thinking, "Huh, I didn't know that."

Next on my reading list is a novel, *Aurora*, by Kim Stanley Robinson, that imagines the first human voyage beyond our solar system to find a new home. You could call it the ultimate winter getaway.

* Tom Sinclair was a writer and editor at UW–Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies for 32 years before retiring in 2011. He lives on Virginia Terrace. ■



The Monroe Street Library—Five Days a Week!

The Monroe Street Library will increase service from three days a week to five in March 2022. New hours will be:

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According to the City of Madison, "An amendment to the 2022 Operating Budget, proposed by Alders Bennett, Evers, and Vidaver, called for an increase in library hours...to be funded with the library's reserves for 2022. Approved unanimously by Common Council on November 10, the change will take effect as soon as the library is able to hire and train additional staff in the early spring of 2022." ■



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Now You See It, Now You Don't—Art Exhibits We're Missing

Ed: The Regent Neighborhood is blessed with artists, but the newsletter is cursed with deadlines. Two excellent exhibits at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters' James Watrous Gallery at Overture Center were closing just as we went to press. In the fall issue, we had to torpedo a mention of Jack Damer's extensive retrospective, and now "The Last Glacier" exhibit featuring Bruce Crownover's gorgeous prints, is closing January 23, 2022. What to do?! We're including a mention of Jack Damer's show, with a photo of the artist at a standing-room-only gallery talk last October. Here, too, is an interview with Bruce, conducted by Samantha Crownover.

Bruce Crownover

Printmaker Bruce Crownover is part of the Last Glacier collective, a collaboration with two other internationally known artists—printmaker Todd Anderson and photographer Ian van Coller. The three began working together in 2010 to respond to the rapidly retreating glaciers at Glacier National Park in Montana. (In 1850 there were 150 glaciers but today the park holds only 25, predicted to disappear by the end of the century.) Since then, the artists have expanded their work through larger collaborations with scientists at glacial landscapes in Colorado; Alberta, Canada; Iceland and Tanzania. The artists are dedicated to capturing the fading majesty of Earth's remaining glaciers.

Samantha Crownover: What's your visual arts background?

Bruce Crownover: I started making prints shortly after high school in 1981 in Southern California. I earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Utah State University and a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1989. Importantly, I worked with Keiji Shinohara, a Japanese Ukiyo-e master printer at Cherrywood Press, in Boston, creating prints for Sean Scully, Chuck Close, Robert Stackhouse and John Newman. In 1992, I returned to Madison and became an associate printer at Tandem Press, a fine art print studio affiliated with the University of Wisconsin–Madison. I also worked for Tandem's founder, Bill Weege, at Off Jones Road Press, in Arena, making paper and prints. From 1994 to 2018, I was a master printer at Tandem Press and became an expert in woodcarving, relief, and intaglio, becoming a notable printmaker and close collaborator with 92 nationally and internationally known artists and have taught over 350 students. Just before the pandemic, I enjoyed a residency as a MacDowell Fellow, in New Hampshire.

regentneighborhood.org



Bruce Crownover, Taylor Glacier, Reductive woodcut, 18 x 24 in. Reprinted with permission.

SC: Why are you interested in glaciers as subject matter?

BC: I have always been drawn to the mountains. Searching out glaciers has become a reason to seek out the mountains. They're such good markers for the climate crisis; they're an easily visible record of something that's changing dramatically.

SC: How do you visually capture such an expanse of landscape? What's your technique once you're in the studio?

BC: I need to sit in one spot for several hours and look. The longer I sit, the less intimidated I am of recording such a geographic expanse onto a small piece of paper. I reduce the topography into chunks of geometry. I ask, where are the plateaus, the crevasses, where are the gestures of the forms? Once I'm back in my studio, to create a reductive woodblock print I enlarge and reverse the original field drawing to the size of the large wood block. Then I trace the major forms onto the Shina plywood and repaint the image on the block in grey scale. Then I start carving what will become the lightest colors of the image and print these on 25 pieces of paper with pin registration. I go back to the block up to a dozen times to continue to carve away information and print more colors. I can also cut up the block into puzzle-type pieces to print additional colors from them onto paper.

SC: What's next?

BC: I'm working toward ten images from my recent visit to Auyuittuq National Park on Baffin Island, Canada. My fellow collaborators and I visited the Penny Ice Cap, a remnant (continued on page 18)

Art Exhibits *(continued from page 17)*

from the last Ice Age. Fingers crossed, I'll take a trip to Nepal to see the Himalayas, and to the Wind River Range, Wyoming. We hope to publish artist books about these places, too.

SC: What do you hope your work conveys to viewers?

BC: My love of the subject matter. I hope I inspire viewers to experience whatever slice of nature speaks to them.

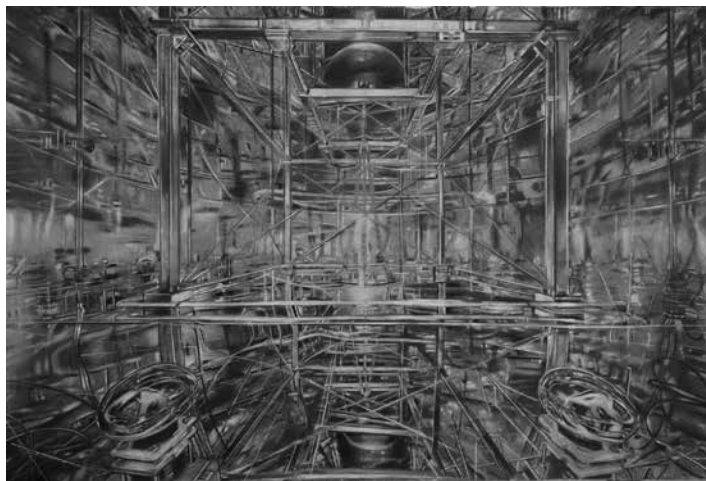
For more information on the limited-edition artists' books, see Special Collections at UW–Madison's Memorial Library. You can also visit the wisconsinacademy.org/gallery, and these other websites: thelastglacier.com, and crownoverart.com.

Jack Damer

Jack Damer is a UW–Madison Professor Emeritus and long-time Regent Neighborhood resident. A retrospective of his work, "Prints, Drawings & Objects, 1965–2021," was on view through the end of October at the James Watrous Gallery at Overture Center.



Jack Damer at a standing-room-only artist's talk at the Watrous Gallery's exhibition in October 2021.



*Sound Room, 2020.
Mixed media drawing by Jack Damer*

According to the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, the exhibit's organizer, Damer is a master printmaker, brilliant draftsman, and influential teacher. His "prolific output ranges from densely layered images of engines and machine parts to poignant drawings of found objects and elaborate constructions made from his own prints. The cool, industrial look of Damer's source material is transformed through his sensitive line, subtle use of tone and color and, often, a mordant humor that borders on moral outrage."

Damer was a leading figure in UW–Madison's nationally recognized printmaking program for many years, and his artwork is represented in museums and private collections around the world. Says the Wisconsin Academy, Damer "taught printmaking and drawing at UW–Madison with a particular focus on lithography and has led workshops and participated in artist residencies around the country and internationally. While Damer is primarily known as a master lithographer, his work also encompasses almost every print media as well as drawing, collage, and constructions made from his own prints and found objects."

Images from the exhibit can be accessed at wisconsinacademy.org/gallery/past-exhibitions. ■

Lighting Candles and Cursing the Darkness in the Regent Neighborhood

by Michelle Kohl

Around the end of November 2020, we were all entrenched in a particularly dark first winter of the COVID pandemic—exhausted, demoralized, grieving, looking for hope, and wondering when we would begin to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

The social coordinator of our 2500 block of Van Hise Avenue, Stephanie Schauer, had been providing ideas over the months of the pandemic for things that our little block-community could do to help us feel a little less isolated and boost morale a bit, while still following safe social distancing guidelines. One project grew from the recognition of how much the days were getting shorter, with morning and evening dog walks happening in the darkness. She suggested all of us putting up lights—on our houses, porches, in windows, you name it, to celebrate winter solstice, the shortest day of the year (in the Western Hemisphere). And the last thing she said to our group was, “Maybe even try some luminarias?”

Luminaries or luminarias—now, that struck a chord with me. I'd had thoughts about our block being lit up with paper bags with candles around this time of year, ever since my husband, Scott, told me about how his whole neighborhood used to coordinate an effort to do it when he was a kid in Green Bay. His mother, who grew up in El Paso, had brought the tradition with her.

I have always loved luminarias. There is something warm, peaceful, and hopeful about these lanterns. Stephanie's idea lit a spark under me, and it felt particularly urgent, inspiring, and energizing to volunteer to coordinate others on our block to set up luminarias on the solstice. It felt symbolic in many ways. We placed them six feet apart, to honor what we had all been through up to that point in the pandemic with “social distancing”. It felt like every candle was also in remembrance of so many who had suffered and passed. And yet, it also felt like bringing some light and hope to one of the darkest nights, with the anticipation of more light returning.

When I initially responded to Stephanie's email and said that I would enjoy masking up and doing this on the solstice along with a couple of other volunteers from the block and a handful of folks who would be willing to chip in on the cost of the bags and candles, I didn't know what to expect. It filled my heart when over 20 people volunteered to help. We all really needed this.



*Luminarias on the 2500 block of Van Hise Avenue
Photo: Victor Forberger*

Around September 2021, I started thinking about solstice luminarias and whether we would do them again. I remember feeling relieved that surely it wasn't going to be as difficult of a winter as last year. Still, it was so wonderful that it seemed likely we would do it again. Perhaps in a more celebratory mood than the previous year.

After Thanksgiving, we decided to organize. Again, many helping hands from our block happily volunteered. I vowed to try to take what I learned from the previous year to make things go even more smoothly and easily. What was interesting is that although we had overcome some minor challenges from the past year, we faced new challenges this time.

Among other things, the first year it was rainy. This year it was windy. Really windy. So windy that after getting everything in place on the night of the solstice, we were not able to get the candles to stay lit. So, we decided to leave everything set up, and try the next night.

The second night was a success. In fact, things had gone so well that all the bags were still in place and usable (with new candles) for a third night. The unintentional symbolism of that struck me. The bags were out for three nights, just as we are now entering the third year of this pandemic. We overcame challenges on the first night, and our perseverance was rewarded by the beauty of the second night with the candles lit. Perhaps it was no accident that in the end, the third night was even more beautiful, rewarding, and hopeful than the second. May this third night lead to the return of more light and longer days, with more sun shining upon us all. ■



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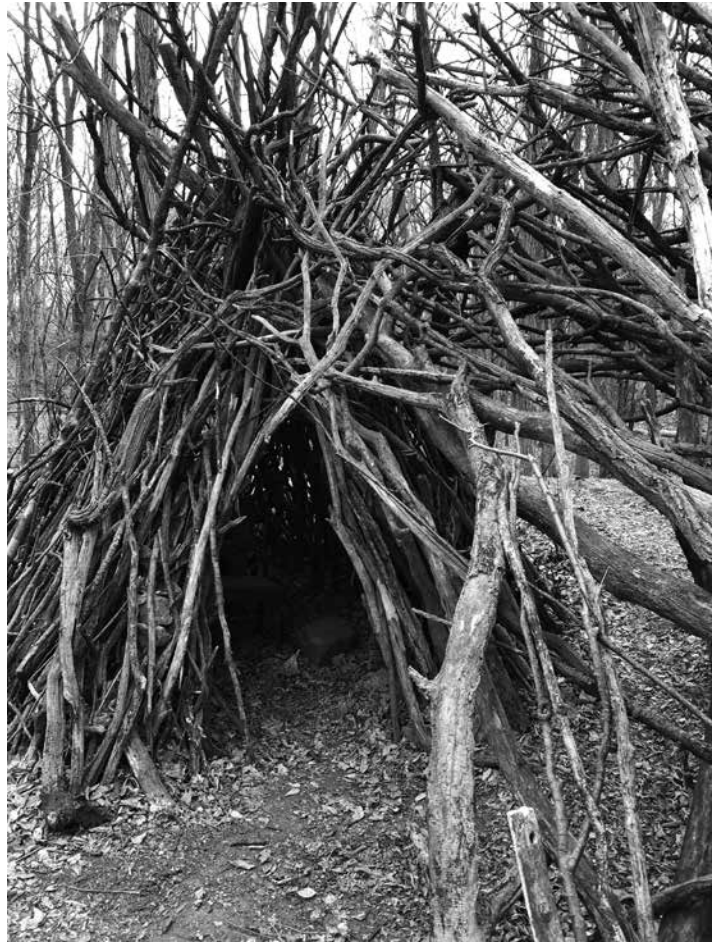
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Whose Woods? *(continued from back page)*

Wigwam or tipi? In conversations with other hikers and park/cemetery staff, the words were used interchangeably to describe these found structures. Wigwam refers to a conical or dome-shaped dwelling traditionally made by Indigenous peoples of the Northeast. These shelters were seasonal and temporary, or permanent. Tipis, which were covered with buffalo skins and more portable, were associated with Great Plains tribes. Neither term may be appropriate for these pole structures. If any of our readers have information on the “pole builders” in our neighborhood, please write the newsletter editor at rlhess@wisc.edu. ■



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## Whose Woods Are These?

On several walks in and around the neighborhood, you may have noticed odd wooden structures, assembled twigs and logs with no discernible purpose, history, or maker, branches stacked carefully upon or alongside the other forming a kind of hut. You may have seen these at Forest Hill Cemetery, and Hoyt and Quarry Parks. Even one in the woods at the edge of the Bradley House property, along Bascom Street.

At times these constructions seem reminiscent of something that might once have been built by Indigenous peoples. Or perhaps they could be considered works of art. Or teaching tools. Or games children play. There is no suggestion that these are inhabited by the homeless, although one structure contains a chair and another a mat.

When we asked Forest Hill Cemetery-staff, they replied they didn't know who's responsible for building the installations. "Since there does not



*One of several mysterious wood structures found in neighborhood area parks. This one is in Forest Hill.*



*A wood structure found in Quarry Park*

appear to be any hazard associated with these occurrences, we are simply leaving them be," staff said. The City of Madison's Park Division had no explanation either for these log houses.

Our version of crop circles? We like them, and thought you might, too. *(continued on page 21)*

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 31, 2022. 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](mailto:rlhess@wisc.edu).