



Regent Neighborhood

May 2022 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION

Please join us for the
Spring Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.
via Zoom

Guest Speakers

Kelly Miess, Civil Engineer,

Joe Grande, Water Quality Manager,
Madison Water Utility,

Matt Ginder-Vogel, Associate Professor,
the Environmental Chemistry and
Technology program at UW–Madison

Our speakers will discuss water contamination issues affecting the neighborhood. Madison's water quality involving the City's Well 19, located within the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, currently does not meet the Madison Water Utility Board's standards.

-
- for Zoom meeting info, go to regentneighborhood.org/

RNA Wants You—Board Vacancies

“You have to be involved in terms of what’s happening in your local neighborhood and what the issues are there.”

—Barack Obama

Dear Neighbors,

What if a condition of living in the Regent Neighborhood was mandatory service? A three-year term on the RNA Board? Sounds awful, doesn't it? We wouldn't wish it upon any of us, especially since so many of us volunteer already in other spheres of our lives in Madison.

But, still, neighborhood is about pitching in, and it's not always easy to find people willing to step up to the plate.

Which brings me to this—the RNA needs more pinch hitters.

At our upcoming May membership meeting, part of our business will be to hold elections for the RNA Board of Directors. According to our bylaws, any dues paying member of the association may serve on the Board.

Here are the vacancies for your consideration:

President, President Elect/Vice President, Membership Chair, Festival Chair, School Relations Chair,

(continued on page 3)

Renew your membership & donate to the scholarship—form enclosed.



Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

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

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Vice President/President-Elect
OPEN

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School Relations Chair
OPEN

Development & Preservation Chair
OPEN

Graphic Design by Mary Sarnowski

A Note from the President

Listening to the recent "Well Someone Had to Do SOMETHING" episode of *This American Life*, I was reminded of the dedicated work of the RNA Board.

That includes hundreds of hours that our neighbors have put into projects like the University Avenue Corridor Plan, the playground at Olive Jones Park, the Fourth of July Festivals, and managing the work of the board.

This month the RNA invites you to do something, or several somethings including supporting the work of the RNA by renewing your membership and contributing to a West High scholarship. The scholarship was inspired by Rev. Alex Gee in a RNA neighborhood forum on Racial Justice.

For many years the RNA Board has been a venue for neighborhood conversations about race, the environment, schools, policing, and regular conversations with our elected representatives. And the RNA Board has contributed financially to local initiatives with a strong focus on supporting Franklin and Randall and West High schools.

Anyone valuing these contributions to our neighborhood should also consider joining the RNA Board to continue our neighborhood conversation and good works.

"I can't think of a better thing to do than to spend your time on this planet than to identify something that's vexing someone else, or a lot of someone elses, and to put yourself into the gap between them and the solution." —Sean Cole, *This American Life*, April 3, 2022

— Jon



*RNA Board President
Jon Miskowski*

Join the RNA Google Group—

groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn

Upcoming RNA Board Meetings

• **May 17, 2022 (see page 1)** • **June 28, 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.

Bye-Byes from Becky and Hanns

Ed: Neighbors come and go all the time in the Regent Neighborhood. We see the “For Sale” signs go up and come down, the moving trucks arrive and depart. But this season, neighbors will be particularly sorry to see two residents take their leave after nearly ten years here—UW–Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank and First Gentleman Hanns Kuttner. They’ll be off to Evanston where Blank will become president of Northwestern University. Before packing up, they shared a few farewells with us.

Olin House, at 130 North Prospect, has had what may be the most stable ownership in the neighborhood, with only two owners since its completion in 1911. Of course, since it became the property of the University of Wisconsin, it’s had multiple occupants as leaders of the University of Wisconsin–Madison have come and gone. After nine years, our time in this grand public housing is coming to a close. We’ve greatly enjoyed being part of the neighborhood.

The building process began when John and Helen Olin bought eight building lots. Helen died in 1922, and their ownership ended with John’s death in 1924. In January 1925 his executors, carrying out a provision in his will, transferred title to the Regents of the University of Wisconsin. John’s action memorialized Helen, a UW alumna. A plaque expressing his intent can be found next to the front door. He wanted the house to become the residence of the President of UW. After the creation of the UW System in the 1970s, Olin House became the residence of the UW–Madison chancellor.

A large-scale renovation project that concluded in 2008 divided the building’s functionality into a second- and third-floor residence and a first floor for events. The result is a bit like having a downtown condo but in a neighborhood of single family houses.

That renovation resolved many of the tensions between the house’s dual functions as a setting



Chancellor Rebecca Blank and her husband, Hanns Kuttner, pose for a photo with UW–Madison mascot Bucky Badger during a tailgate party at Olin House, the official Chancellor’s residence, before a Badger home football game, Sept. 30, 2017. Photo by Hyunsoo Léo Kim/UW–Madison

for University of Wisconsin events and a family’s home. One previous resident said that the addition of a second bathroom on the first floor meant there was no longer a need to send people upstairs to the private bathroom when there was a line outside the first floor bathroom. A separate second-floor kitchen meant no longer having a kitchen that was shared between the family and caterers preparing food for upwards of 200 guests.

The scope of that project meant there has been little need for fixing or renovation while we have lived here. The biggest changes may be in the landscape, where a large red oak near the Chamberlain Avenue fence was removed, along with conifers closer to the garage. As large as those trees were, the lot continues to have a lovely tree canopy.

(continued on page 3)

RNA Board Vacancies *(continued from page 1)*

Development and Preservation Chair, Board Member-At-Large.

Guess what? You can even nominate yourself!

Mostly, all you need to do is show up, which means attend our monthly Board meetings along with, sometimes, committee work. If you feel unable to volunteer to chair a committee, no worries. There are several at-large vacancies. Serving as a Board

Member-At-Large is a good way to ease yourself into the RNA. You’ll learn about how local really is global. And actually you’ll have fun.

If you still have any doubts, contact Mary Czyszczak-Lyne at mary.czyszczaklyne@wisc.edu

Yours, respectfully,

The Editor ■

Bye-Byes *(continued from page 3)*

That separation of public and private made it easy for us to cooperate with the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation and its University Heights walking tours. The first floor of Olin House has been an unannounced bonus on the tour when we have been in town (and even sometimes when we have not, thanks to our helpful neighbor Linda Berman.) If you haven't seen the inside of Olin House, send Hanns an email at hkuttner@gmail.com and he will see if something can be arranged before we move.

We have enjoyed our time at Olin House. Our favorite part of the house is the rear deck overlooking the garden, where we've had dinner almost every night when the weather was warm, enjoying the long Madison summer evenings. To a vegetable gardener (Hanns), the most distinguishing characteristic of the Olin House lot is the extent of shade. That deck is the sunniest spot on the lot. The UW Grounds staff took pity on our effort to grow tomatoes in pots and provided a raised bed to supplement the pots. With

plants from Voss Organics (available at the Farmer's Market on the Capitol Square or the Willy Street Co-op), we've had more success with tomatoes than anywhere else we've lived.

We have always been walkers. The pandemic provided an opportunity for walks that were both more frequent and longer in length. These allowed us to closely observe the Regent Neighborhood. We looked for rainbows in windows, then watched as fairy houses emerged in many yards. We have appreciated how much energy our neighbors devote to the beauty and cultivation of their landscapes.

The campus events at Olin House often fill all the nearby parking, and football tailgate Saturdays bring lots of people (as well as a few buses) through the neighborhood. We thank all of our neighbors for their tolerance with a public facility in their midst. You've been wonderful neighbors. ■

—Hanns Kuttner and Becky Blank



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Alder Report—District 5

A City Budget Primer

A budget is a moral document. Our priorities and values shape how we are willing to invest our fiscal resources. As Madison's 2023 Budget begins to take shape, I want to provide some context for the deliberations that will be occurring until its adoption in November.



Alder Regina Vidaver
Photo: Jeanine Schneider

Capital vs. Operating

Madison's Capital Budget outlines projects we will invest in, including buildings, vehicles, and other major equipment. The Operating Budget supports the human capital, supplies and other expenses we need to implement City services. While the City can borrow funds to pay for capital expenses over time, the Operating Budget must balance each year, with expenses not to exceed income. The Operating Budget also pays off the debt incurred by the Capital Budget, so these budgets are related. Madison generally pays off most of its debts within 10 years, allowing us to retain our Triple A Moody's bond rating. All information on the City's budget can be found at cityofmadison.com/finance/budget/2022.

You Get What You Pay For

The people of Madison enjoy exceptional City services, from snow plowing to street sweeping, parks maintenance to library hours, refuse collection to election management. To meet all our needs, Madison hires outstanding staff to implement these services. These staff expect and deserve appropriate remuneration for their time and expertise; staffing is Madison's single biggest operating expense.

Sources of Income

The largest source of Madison's income is property taxes (72%). By state law, we cannot increase local property taxes by more than the amount of net new construction in the community. This is referred to as a "levy limit." The only way to exceed these limits is through voter referenda. When construction levels decrease, such as they did during the pandemic, our levy limit is also affected.

The amount of shared state revenue helping municipalities has decreased substantially over time, going from \$25M in 1984 to about \$8M in 2021. This reduction in general revenue has had significant impact on our ability to budget for the services we all enjoy. While the current state budget surplus could be used to increase support to local municipalities, that

does not appear to be on the table for the foreseeable future.

Madison's hotel and parking revenues were severely impacted by the pandemic. While these are beginning to bounce back, they are still not at pre-pandemic levels. If Madison had not received funds through President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), we would have had to lay off staff, and reduce or eliminate grants to community organizations and other social services.

Expenses: The Quandary

Because expenses cannot exceed income for the Operating Budget, difficult decisions must be made each year regarding how to prioritize operations. And each decision is not made in a vacuum; rather, the impact of one decision on expenditures affects all other funds that are available to support the system.

Let's examine a couple of recent examples: Police body-worn cameras (BWCs), and the new library and Imagination Center at Reindahl Park. Both items require Capital Budgets and Operating Budgets. For BWCs, we must acquire the cameras and the storage media for the video files. These items are relatively easy to accommodate in the Capital Budget, and some items have already been purchased. But the Operating Budget is substantial. IT professionals must be hired to support the hardware and software associated with the cameras, servers, and other infrastructure. Our police department will require initial and ongoing training on use of the technology, and additional staff will be needed to review and redact footage as it is requested through open records requests and for legal proceedings. If we must hire an additional six staff members for this, then that would be six people we're not hiring for other purposes.

Similarly, the Library and Imagination Center will require a Capital Budget for construction, and I am grateful that the Madison Library Foundation is supporting a significant portion of the Capital costs. However, some council members voted against this proposal not because they don't believe in the value of combined library, community center, and social service offices, but because they are deeply concerned about the impacts on the city's Operating Budget to staff this new library.

If we cannot ultimately afford staffing to support both BWCs for our police and a library and community center on the East side, our Mayor and Alders must weigh the ultimate community benefits of each of these initiatives, alongside all other priorities, during decision-making processes. The system cannot

(continued on page 6)

Alder Report *(continued from page 5)*



currently support every goal we would like to undertake.

Creative Solutions

Despite all the limitations of the budget process, creative solutions are sometimes available. For example, for years it was clear we needed another ambulance service on the East side. While we were able to acquire the ambulance (a Capital expense), we had never identified how we would hire and support the nine EMTs required to staff the added service. Ultimately, Alder Jael Currie (District 16) proposed an amendment to fund the service through increased ambulance fees, which are largely covered by health insurers. However, as some individuals without health insurance will be burdened by the increased fees should they need emergency services, Alder Currie also recommended expanding the City's Ambulance Hardship Waiver that helps individuals lacking insurance to pay these fees. The number of claims represented by this segment of our population is quite small, so the net gain will be substantially larger than the cost, and this solution was therefore sufficient to support increased EMT staffing.

I am certain many of you who have made it to the end of this article will have other creative solutions to our ongoing budgeting quandaries—if you do, please drop me a line at district5@cityofmadison.com. I would love to hear from you! ■

—Regina Vidaver, Alder, District 5

CAPITAL VERSUS OPERATING COMPARING MADISON'S BUDGETS	
 <p>The capital budget funds physical infrastructure.</p> <p>This funding covers long-term projects, such as major infrastructure replacements.</p> <p>Capital funds cover projects like library construction, housing, roads, and water system improvements.</p> <p>The capital budget is funded by borrowing, assessments, and federal and state grants.</p>	 <p>The operating budget funds the City's daily business.</p> <p>This funding covers City programs and services, as well as staff and supplies.</p> <p>Operating funds cover services like trash collection, snow removal, operation of parks, and metro transit.</p> <p>The operating budget is funded by property taxes, charges for service, and federal and state aid.</p>
Learn more at https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/budget .	





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Dane County Board Report—District 11

Hello, neighbors! I'm so pleased to introduce myself as the Dane County Board Supervisor for the western edge of the Regent Street neighborhood, which is now part of the County's district 11. This is a result of a new County district map, created by a local non-partisan redistricting commission in fall 2021. I was first elected as the Supervisor for district 11 in 2020, which now includes Hill Farms, Shorewood Village, and the neighborhoods east of Midvale to North Allen.

The County Board is responsible for budgeting and policy-making on issues such as lake and watershed conservation, the Dane County Sheriff's Office, and the Henry Vilas Zoo. Nearly half of the County's \$660 million annual operating budget is dedicated to health and human services. In my role as Supervisor, I serve on the Area Agency on Aging Board, guiding investments in services for older adults in our community, and on the Public Protection & Judiciary Committee.

I am committed to expanding alternatives to incarceration, such as programs that divert mental health crises from law enforcement responses and address root causes of crime. One of my first "wins" on the Board included working with the Sheriff's Office to publish daily jail population data, which has helped inform difficult decisions on a project to consolidate our multiple county jail facilities under one roof, and improve conditions for residents and deputies in the facility.

I have lived in Madison for over 10 years (currently at Regent & Segoe), and previously lived on Monroe Street for seven years – I love the near west side! During that time, I served as the Vice President for the Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association. In my day job, I work in health policy and advocacy for the statewide association of Community Health Centers, which are clinics that provide primary care for systemically under-resourced populations. I see most issues through a public health lens, and previously worked for UW-Madison's Population Health Institute, and both our local and state health departments. I have a strong appreciation for public



*Supervisor
Richelle Andrae*

lands, and this summer I plan to camp and hike the Dane County segment of the Ice Age Trail with my dog, Roux.

The County Board will continue to meet remotely until June 1, then we will be back in person. County Board and Committee meetings are recorded and available online at dane.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx. I understand the pandemic has been a challenging time for so many members of our community, and thank you for your continued resilience and empathy for each other while we transition from a crisis to the new "normal."

Please reach out to say "hi", ask questions, or share ideas and feedback. I will plan a Meet & Greet for the new District 11 neighborhood in the spring, so please join my mailing list for details.

Yours in service,

Richelle Andrae

Dane County Board of Supervisors | District 11

Phone: 414-469-6664

Email: andrae.richelle@countyofdane.com

Facebook: [@DaneCountyDistrict11](https://www.facebook.com/DaneCountyDistrict11)

Sign up for district 11 notifications at board.countyofdane.com/supervisors/Detail/11 ■

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Dane County Board Report—District 13

Since I am a first-time candidate for the Dane County Board of Supervisors, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Regent Neighborhood. My name is Olivia Xistris-Songpanya (zis-triss song-pon-ya), and I am a 21-year-old student at UW–Madison. I grew up in New Glarus, Wisconsin and moved to Madison for college in 2018. My mother was born and raised in Madison; my father is from Germany.



*Supervisor
Olivia Xistris-Songpanya*

Madison has always held a place in my heart, and it is the community which I consider home. That is a large reason why I decided to attend university and stay in Madison. At the UW, I am studying international studies and political science, which I hope to use working for an international organization or institution following my graduation in December 2022. Much of my classwork entails research, critical thinking, proactive problem solving, and simultaneous considerations of various perspectives on issues presented.

Since May 2021, I also have been an intern at the State Capitol in the office of Representative Dianne

Hesselbein. Through my time at the Capitol, I have been able to expand my professional development and achieve useful knowledge of state government and the ways in which it operates. I hope to translate these skills through my work on the Board of Supervisors.

I was introduced to this position through colleagues at the Capitol. I was hesitant at first to run, but after much consideration I decided this would be the perfect opportunity for me to bring county-level change to the community I love so much. In my upcoming term, I will champion environmental conservation, relief for people experiencing homelessness and housing crises, and awareness and resources for mental health services. Through these issues and many others, I hope to generate positive and meaningful changes for the people of Dane County.

As I mentioned, I am a first-time candidate therefore this entire process has been a learning experience for me. I am appreciative of the generous assistance I have been offered and accepting of the challenges as a first-time candidate. With that said, I am thankful for any support as I continue this exciting endeavor, and I look forward to serving the Regent Neighborhood! ■

—Olivia Xistris-Songpanya, Supervisor, District 13

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From Representative Shelia Stubbs Wisconsin, Assembly District 77

On January 21st, 2022, I introduced Assembly Bill 886 to create a task force on African American Missing and Murdered Women. In the United States, the statistics concerning Black women are grim. Nearly 34 percent of missing women are Black, however Black women only account for 15 percent of the United States' female population (Source: National Crime Information Center).

When I saw statistics like these, I knew it was time to devote resources to end this senseless violence.

The idea to create a taskforce was inspired by the work of the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Taskforce (MMIWT) created in 2020. The issue of gendered violence transcends both of our communities, and we must take every step we can to protect our women and girls. Like the MMIWT, our taskforce is set to be comprised of legislators, legal and law enforcement experts, experts in the field of gendered violence, organizations that directly aid Black female victims, and victims of gendered violence. These professionals will examine systemic causes, data collection methods, policies, institutions, measures to address and reduce violence, and measures to help victims, their family, and their communities. The goals of the African American Missing and Murdered Women taskforce are certainly ambitious, but are all necessary to provide African American Women and Girls with the quality of life they deserve in Wisconsin.

February 1st, 2022 marked the beginning of Black History Month. To kick it off, I organized a celebration at the State Capitol alongside Governor Evers and Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes. Throughout the rest of the month, members of the Wisconsin Legislative Black Caucus hosted events that covered a variety of policy issues. It was great to take time to highlight the achievements and contributions of Black Americans.

On February 2nd, 2022, I held a news conference to introduce legislation that would reinstate the 48-hour waiting period in Wisconsin. This legislation is deeply important to me because it was introduced



*Representative
Shelia Stubbs*

in honor of Caroline Nosal, who was tragically killed by a gunman who acquired a firearm less than 24 hours before her death. The 48-hour waiting period is a common sense policy to ensure the safety of Wisconsinites.

On February 15th, 2022, I attended Governor Evers' State of the State Address. It was wonderful to hear about the accomplishments we have made in Wisconsin throughout the past year. Turning our attention to the future, Wisconsin has a large share of federal aid and a \$3.8 billion dollar surplus. Through future investments and initiatives in support of small businesses, mental health initiatives, and education, this money can make a huge difference in the lives of Wisconsin families. This will be an exciting year, and I am excited to continue working with Governor Evers and his administration as we move Wisconsin Forward.

On March 17th, 2022, three bills that originated as recommendations from the Speaker's Taskforce on Racial Disparities were enacted into law. As the co-chair of the taskforce, I was thrilled to see the taskforce's work come to fruition. Broadly, Acts 183, 184, 185 aim to create more equitable practices in public safety policy. Act 183 requires that a yearly report be created on the use of no-knock entry in the execution of a search warrant. Essentially, through the collection of this information from law enforcement agencies, we can learn more about the use of current policy. Acts 184 and 185 provide important grants to crisis programs and to law enforcement agencies for body cameras respectively. Through the enactment of these laws, we are a step closer to a safer and more equitable Wisconsin. ■

—Shelia Stubbs, State Assembly, District 77



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Greetings from Randall

With snowblowers now snoring in garages and their prior stations claimed by lawnmowers, many of us have become reacquainted with other alloy allies that lay dormant through the winter months. Bicycles. Our reunion with these stalwart steeds is steeped in precious memories and promised adventures. Monty Python's Michael Palin spoke our shared truth when he noted, "One of the most important days of my life was when I learned to ride a bicycle."

As we christen with lemonade our first spring treks, we recapture the splendor of our inauguration as cyclists. The initial spins of the chain render us unstable until we once again find our balance, find our rhythm, and find the bountiful bliss of motorless motion. It all comes back so easily. After all, it's like riding a bike.

We then park our rides and ourselves to sleep. The morning that follows confirms our muscle groups have come to know new territory. Not wanting our intentions to result in detentions, we concede that we need to ease into things a bit. My septuagenarian derrière also suggests a softer seat. Then they are those for whom this is a cake walk—a confectionery glide. The children.

Sidewalks now open for business, more of our students are opting for two-wheeled transportation to school. Bicycles actually take second place to scooters as the mode of choice. While some scholars travel solo, many fly in squadrons, social distancing being more 'laxed. This holds true for our playground protocols as well. Students formally required to wear masks and revel in restricted areas in the company of their respective classroom cohorts are now allowed to frolic freely en masse with smashing smiles in full view.

It would seem that making and maintaining friends is like riding a bike. Once you've learned how to do it, you never forget. Yet, at Randall, we've found that many of our Raccoons' social skills had been shelved long enough to warrant a refresher course. We were called to blowing off the dust to adjust. Our efforts came in the form of social and emotional learning (SEL) lessons. Our morning announcements and daily classroom meetings were also seasoned with messages on Emerson's theme, "The only way to have a friend is to be one." In short time, the children's true warmth and glow returned to match the weather, splashing sunshine into all of our lives. Dale Carnegie would have been delighted.



Fifth grader Henry Duffield explains his Randall Raccoon transport system to principal John Wallace.

Our youngsters' ability to quickly bond with others far exceeds ours. They are naturals, albeit a little guidance is needed from time-to-time. Still, we know that training wheels inhibit their independence. We stand back, ever vigilant. A host of emotions wells up in us as we so proudly watch our charges charge on, drenched in their, "Look, Ma, no hands!" glee. As author Sloan Wilson observed, "The hardest part of raising a child is teaching them to ride bicycles. A shaky child on a bicycle for the first time needs both support and freedom. The realization that this is what the child will always need can hit hard."

We're holding their hands while we can, for comfort more than safety, and feeling all of yours.

Go Raccoons!

John ■



West High School Report

Happy Spring!

As the days grow longer, the students and staff grow more excited by the day as we slowly transition from seeing our COVID mitigation strategies evolve from a pandemic mindset to an endemic mindset—on April 15th, the district moved to “masks optional” and a less restrictive approach for large group meetings. This means our end of the year celebrations—National Honors Society Induction (5/23), Prom (5/14), Senior Honors Convocation (5/26), and Graduation (6/11)—are all in person.

It’s been a long time coming. We are very, very ready for the new normal.

Two other significant events fall into the category of “new normal.”

The first is the extensive construction that started at West during Spring Break and will continue until the



Karen Boran

late fall of 2024. The school will look amazing—it’s what your children and their teachers deserve—but it comes at a sacrifice. There will be no parking at West and our teachers deeply hope that some kind of arrangement can be made to support street parking for authorized West staff during the next two years. Any support you can provide West staff to address the two-hour parking restrictions would be deeply appreciated.

The other item is that I will be retiring from MMSD on June 30th after 29 years in education and 12 years in the principalship, with the last five at West. It’s been a wonderful journey with countless stops and adventures along the way. I am taking a page out of many graduating seniors’ handbooks and will take a “gap year” to rest and discover what is next on my life’s journey. I know the new principal for West will be announced after we return in early April. I want to thank the Regent Neighborhood Association for all their support along the way.

Thanks, and have an amazing spring. ■

—Karen Boran, Principal, West High School

**ALL ARE WELCOME HERE.
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Winter and Spring at Franklin School

We have had a busy Winter and Spring at Franklin School. We have been working hard and growing while we played in the snow and enjoyed puddles on the playground. We have some new projects coming as we prepare for a new 4k play structure and having outdoor shade for our playground. We have also purchased lots of culturally relevant books for teachers to use in the classroom. We also have an awesome indoor garden where students can plant, grow, and harvest all year long.

We have also celebrated our school values of Family, Kindness, Trust and Joy where we use these beliefs



to set the stage for all of our climate, culture, social and emotional learning at school. We even have a superhero, Captain Maria, who helps us to learn about what it looks and sounds like to use these values each day.

As mitigations ease, we are excited about upcoming field trips and school events this spring. To help us celebrate this great year and invite our families to join in on the fun! We look forward to warm weather and to watching our students continue to learn and grow. ■

—Kristi Kloos, Principal, Franklin Elementary School



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News from Blessed Sacrament School

Spring has sprung at Blessed Sacrament School! We are very proud of our 6th grader, Aiden Wijeyakulasuriya, who won the All-City Spelling Bee and took second place at the Wisconsin State Bee.

Aiden also did well, along with several classmates, at the Math 24 competition that BSS hosted. Math 24 is a game produced by Suntex International, Inc., that allows students to further their math skills in basic facts, mental math, problem-solving and patterning.

In addition to academics and academic extra-curriculars, our School and Community Association has been busy with community-building activities including a sledding event on a snowy Saturday in early January, a sing-along with community-favorite Ken Lonnquist, an exciting (even hair-raising!) UW-Madison Wonders of Physics experience, as well as a visit from the Madison area's Trinity Irish Dancers. Sadly, our Spaghetti Dinner, both a school and neighborhood favorite, fell victim to the rising COVID Omicron variant numbers and was canceled. Next year, spaghetti lovers, we hope to bring it back!

Next up is our Gallery Night fine arts celebration on Thursday, May 19, beginning in the late afternoon. (Please contact BSS for more information.) We'll have food trucks, art exhibits, musical solo and ensemble performances, talent show acts and more. Neighbors are invited to stop by!

We feel hopeful and energized moving forward after two years of pandemic limitations. We continue to



Some Blessed Sacrament students were “blown away” at a recent UW-Madison Wonder of Physics event. The Wonder of Physics program is designed to encourage interest in physics among people of all ages and backgrounds.

be cautious as we don't know what the future holds. What we do know, however, is that being together and working together is a blessing. Community is important to our wellbeing.

For more information about Blessed Sacrament School, please call us at 608-233-6155 or email principal@school.blsacrament.org ■

—September Liller and Elizabeth First
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What I'm Reading—Laurie Dennis*

It would be hard to overestimate the popularity of *Dream of the Red Chamber* and the Condor Trilogy to the Chinese reading world.

These are both massive works involving vast tapestries of characters. *Dream of the Red Chamber*, also known by the title *The Story of the Stone*, is set in 18th-century China and stretches to a few thousand pages in the best English translation of the Chinese original. The Condor Trilogy

spans twelve volumes, with a storyline that meanders from the late 12th through the early 14th centuries. Both have been turned into blockbuster films and television series and attracted legions of devoted fans.

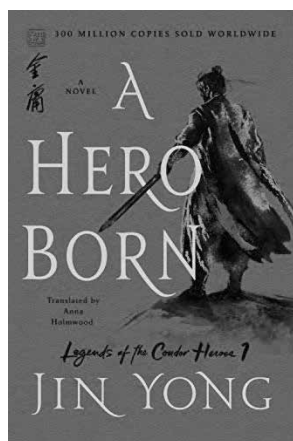
And yet, these are also markedly different stories—Cao Xueqin (about 1715–1763) wrote *Dream of the Red Chamber*, a study of the nobility in decline, during China's final Qing Dynasty. Jin Yong (1924–2018), one of contemporary China's most widely-read writers, wrote martial arts novels filled with fighting monks and humble heroes, stories first serialized in 1950s Hong Kong newspapers.

I decided to embark on a journey through these two worlds so dear to Chinese audiences as my reading goal for 2022. Though I majored in Chinese literature at UW–Madison and have always possessed copies of *Dream of the Red Chamber*, for some reason I'd never actually read through the whole thing, causing needless pangs of guilt. At the same time, I knew that a major English translation of Jin Yong's Condor Trilogy was underway. Time to read them both and study the art of translation along the way.

The opening volume of the Condor Trilogy, titled *A Hero Born* in the new Anna Holmwood translation, launches the story of Guo Jing, a good hearted though dim-witted boy. He is Chinese but raised on the Mongolian steppe under the protection of Temujin (who will emerge as the great Genghis Khan). A group of martial artists is trying desperately to pass on their skills to Guo Jing in time for him to face a key test when he turns eighteen. The reader must wade through



Laurie Dennis
Photo by Donna Kelly



plenty of fighting scenes—with a “Yanqing Sparrow boxing move” leading to a “Push Back the Moon” thrust, and so forth—but the plot is a lively thriller.

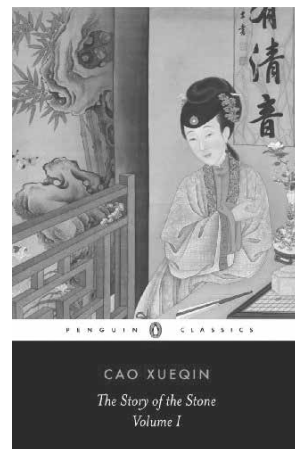
Some say Jin Yong's martial arts stories are not translatable. (The Holmwood translation is a good one, though at times it did not seem able to rise to the level of the original.) Maybe so. However, after reading the first volume of David Hawkes's translation of Cao Xueqin's *The Story of the Stone*, I think it may be more correct to say that these kinds of lyrical works take

a rare talent to translate. And Hawkes is that kind of talent. I found myself flipping back between the Chinese and the English and marveling at Hawkes' skills with long passages of poetry, complicated architecture, name puns, lists of medicine, etc. Hawkes, who died in 2009, shocked his colleagues when he resigned his chair at Oxford University to devote himself to the translation of Cao Xueqin's masterpiece. He got through the 80 essential chapters.

Volume One (the first 26 chapters) introduces the love trilogy of Baoyu, the scion of the Jia family, and his female cousins: the ethereal but often weepy and easily-offended Lin Daiyu, and the sweet-natured Xue Baochai. They reside in relative contentment—for this volume, anyway—at the center of a web of complex relationships stretched across Chinese society. I was surprised at the frank depictions of various types of sexual relations in a work that was so well received in the 1700s. I'm not sure this would make it past today's People's Republic of China censors! However, by the end, I was completely swept up in the world of the Jia family, wondering which of the many elaborately-drawn female characters I liked best. Baoyu loves them all. “He had come to the conclusion that the pure essence of humanity was all concentrated in the female of the species and that males were its mere dregs and off-scourings.”

In the face of today's difficult news headlines, what a relief to escape to one of the Jia family mansions, or to learn how Jin Yong's heroes will vanquish the next set of impossible villains. ■

* Laurie Dennis is making final edits to the manuscript of her second novel of historical fiction set in 14th-century China. She lives on Virginia Terrace. lauriedennis.com/ ■



Poetry Corner—Evalyn Robillard

Evalyn (or Evie) Robillard is a former children's librarian who lives in the shadow of West High School. She writes for both children and grownups. Her work has appeared in *The Madison Review*, *The Montserrat Review*, *Chicago's Midway Review*, *Great River Review*, *Wisconsin Academy Review*, and other journals and magazines. Garrison Keillor has twice read her poetry on *The Writer's Almanac*. She has written four chapbooks of poetry, including her most recent, *tonight the poem* (Fireweed Press, 2019). *Portrait In Poems: The Storied Life of Gertrude Stein & Alice B. Toklas* (Kids Can Press) was published in 2020. She spends her time writing, reading, splashing around with watercolors, and drifting from coffeehouse to coffeehouse in the Madison area. Her poetry is spare and delicate, but not without grit, generosity, and surprise.



Evie Robillard
Photo: Family photo

three haiku

very windy day

and here beneath the pine tree

a tiny blue egg

4-30-2020

on the west high lawn

wild turkeys running free

where are the students?

4-16-2021

little brown sparrow

this morning every feather

is filled with sunshine

5-1-2018

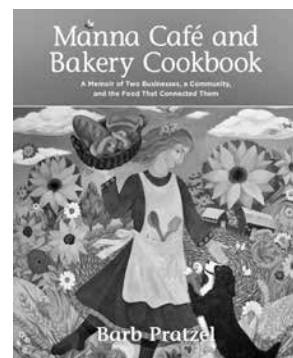
—Evalyn Robillard ■

Recipe Corner—Fudge Bottom Pie Redux

Ed: In honor of Chancellor Rebecca Blank, we bring you a tweaking of one of the most popular recipes in UW–Madison history. Most people in the Regent Neighborhood have probably tried the custard dessert at some point, but new residents might appreciate an introduction. Carson Gulley (1897–1962) is credited with the recipe's creation. He was a celebrated chef, TV personality, teacher, civil rights pioneer, and author of a cookbook, *Seasoning Secrets* (1949, 1956). Carson Gulley Center (formerly Carson Gulley Commons) is named after the chef and is a meeting and eating facility serving the southwest dorms, at 1515 Tripp Circle. The chef's recipe, and a biography, are here: housing.wisc.edu/2018/06/fudge-bottom-pie/*

For our version, however, I've turned to chef and UW–Madison graduate (Journalism) Barb Pratzel, formerly

*co-owner with her husband, Michael, of The Collins House Bed and Breakfast; then, Manna Café, on Madison's East side. (Barb met Michael at Gordon Commons "over burgers and chili." As for any neighborhood connection, I know of at least one RN resident who was a frequent Manna customer, until it closed in 2020.) Pratzel is the author of *Manna Café and Bakery Cookbook* (Little Creek Press, 2021). Here's her recipe, reprinted with permission; the instructions are mine.*



Fudge Bottom Pie

Crust

2 level cups graham cracker crumbs
¼ cup sugar
3½ ounces butter, cut into small pieces

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a blender or food processor, pulverize the graham crackers. Lightly grease a 10–11" pie plate. In a small bowl, mix cracker crumbs with sugar. Set aside. In a small frying pan, melt the butter. Mix butter with crumbs and sugar (by hand) and transfer to the pie plate. Press firmly into the bottom and up the sides of the plate. Bake for 6 minutes. Cool completely.

Fudge Layer (Ganache)

¾ cup heavy cream
3 ounces semisweet baking chocolate, coarsely chopped
1-ounce unsweetened baking chocolate, coarsely chopped

In a small pot, bring the cream to a boil (watch it carefully), then add the chocolate, whisking until smooth. Spread the ganache over the graham cracker crust. Cool completely.

Custard Filling

2/3 cup sugar
¼ cup cornstarch
¼ teaspoon salt
2 cups heavy cream
1 cup whole milk
4 large egg yolks
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut in ½-inch pieces
Off heat, mix the sugar, cornstarch, and salt in



Chef Carson Gulley stands in front of a rack of his famous fudge bottom pies. Photo: Wisconsin Historical Society, WHI-130567. Reprinted with permission.

a medium-sized heavy-duty pot. Using a whisk, gradually add the cream, milk, and sugar. Stir until the sugar is dissolved and the mixture is smooth. Add the eggs and vanilla. Cook the custard over medium-low heat, stirring constantly until the mixture boils. (This will take time—about 15 minutes—but don't rush it, at the risk of burning the custard.) Add butter and (continued on page 17)

Fudge Bottom Pie *(continued from page 16)*

stir until melted and incorporated into the custard. Remove from the heat. Cool briefly, about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally to avoid the formation of a film, and pour over the chocolate layer. Smooth with an offset spatula or knife. Chill the pie for at least 5 hours or overnight.

Whipped Cream Topping

Since this is a very sweet and rich dessert, my preference is to add just a dollop of sweetened whipped cream alongside the pie. Carson Gulley's recipe called for:

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup + 1 tablespoon whipping cream, chilled

1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar, sifted

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla extract

1-ounce semisweet chocolate, grated or shaved

This should give you enough whipped cream to cover the pie. When you're ready to serve it, place all the topping ingredients except the chocolate in a chilled mixing bowl. Whip (with a balloon whisk, if using an electric mixer) until soft peaks form and then spread on top of the pie. Garnish with grated or shaved chocolate. ■

**Other chefs, too, are credited with the recipe: Two Memorial Union cooks, Lewis Marston and Maurice Coombs, and Los Angeles piemaker Monroe Boston Strause. The origins of the pie may ultimately be Southern, not Midwestern.*



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Whose Woods Are These—Update

A Regent neighbor wrote us regarding the tree fort on the Bradley House property that was featured in the February 2022 edition of the RNA Newsletter. Mary Vetter told us that the structure was completed two or three years ago by a small group of neighborhood kids. They crowned the top with her neighbors' Christmas wreath, and Halloween decor from her yard. Her architect husband inspected it and gave them a "two thumbs up." ■



This structure on the Bradley House property was built a couple of years ago by Regent neighbor kids.

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Vilas Park: Saturday, May 21, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm—Jacob Blasczyk

With the support of the Regent Neighborhood Association, the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association's WATER Team invites you to a family friendly and free event. Bring your family, a friend, or neighbor.

Interact with homeowners and people from 30 organizations committed to clean water needed by all life forms that share this planet. Learn more about water stewardship. Leave with new ideas as we collectively ensure healthy lakes, streams, and the lands in-between.

- Participate in fun activities with nine for children. Engage with storyteller Andi Cloud, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation.
- Renew a sense of connection among people, land, and water.
- Meet homeowners with rain gardens, rain barrels, and prairies instead of lawns as ways to keep water out of their basements while creating habitat for butterflies, insects, and animals.



- Talk with neighbors who plant prairies and greenspaces on public property.
- Talk with urban vegetable gardeners.
- Learn about climate justice, how climate change impacts Madison Lakes and ways to lessen effects.
- Learn about water management including ways to address flooding.
- Experience lake monitoring and tracking harmful chloride.
- Enjoy art inspired by water research results.

Itinerary at fb.me/e/2fBr0YwrY Feel free to contact Taylor. water.wingragathering@gmail.com ■

The Gathering is part of a subgrant from the UW-Madison Arboretum's agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency. Additional funds from Wisconsin Environmental Initiative, Regent Neighborhood Association, Clean Lakes Alliance, Midvale Heights Neighborhood Association, Westmorland Neighborhood Association, Friends of Lake Wingra, Agrecol, and Marta Karlov. Logo courtesy of Colleen Manner, Madison Enterprise Center, 100 S. Baldwin Street, Suite 300 E. Colleen is a resident of Bay Creek.

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2020 University Avenue—The Rooms Where It Happened

Ed: It has come to our attention that 2020 University Avenue has rooms “where it happened,” a history worthy of playwright Lin Manuel Miranda’s Hamilton. The three-story brick apartment building, vintage 1952, arguably has been a kind of incubator for two of Dane County’s most important companies—Epic Systems, Inc., whose CEO is Judith Faulkner, and the American Girl brand, pioneered by entrepreneur and philanthropist Pleasant Rowland.

Back in the 1970s, Faulkner and Rowland rented offices in the building. Faulkner was a UW–Madison graduate (MA in Computer Science), who, in 1979, co-founded Human Services Computing. It eventually

became the healthcare software company with a campus in Verona, WI. Rowland was an educator, writer, and publisher of children’s textbooks who would go on to create the Pleasant Company in 1986. It became a subsidiary of Mattel in 1998, with corporate offices today in Middleton.

According to newsletter sources, Rowland had a small workplace—a cubicle, really. We’re told no big decisions were reached during her time there. She did have an Army Surplus desk which she thinks she offered to Judith Faulkner. We asked Faulkner to contribute some recollections of that time.

Starting out at 2020 University Avenue

Just down the road from the Regent Neighborhood, at the University of Wisconsin, I studied computer science in graduate school. In my first year there, I took Dr. Warner Slack’s course on Computers in Medicine—it was probably the first of its kind—and Dr. Slack asked me to work with him and his team. After a few years, they asked me to create a system that could keep track of patients’ clinical data over time. In those days, the systems commonly used in medical practice were for lab and billing, so what was requested was new and challenging. Fortunately, I didn’t realize just how challenging.

Over the next year, I designed and built the system which I named Chronicles. We implemented it in different medical departments at UW, and the UW doctors showed it to their colleagues in other health systems around the country. For about two years, I received calls from UW physicians who wanted me to start a company so their colleagues could get access, and I would decline. I enjoyed programming and had no particular interest in starting a business. Finally, I said yes. I got a lawyer, an accountant, and permission from the University, and on March 22, 1979, we moved into a basement office at 2020 University Ave. My youngest daughter was born in the same year, so it was quite a busy time.

Our office at 2020 University Ave.

Our basement office at 2020 University Ave was a nice place to work. The environment was much like it is now—a brick building on a quiet, tree-filled street—and we had just enough room for two 50 MB disk drives and three half-time employees when



Our office at 2020 University Avenue. Computers were a little bigger back then, but no less cool to us. Wisconsin State Journal Photo, supplied by Epic.

we first started. We also shared the basement with Subject Index to Children’s Magazines. They were bought by Pleasant Rowland, moved downtown, and became American Girl. We like to think of 2020 University Ave as a good early incubator.

Today, Epic’s home is in Verona. Our team of one-and-a-half people has grown, and space is a little easier to come by out here. 2020 University Ave is an important part of our history. At heart, we’re still a scrappy start-up, we’re still blue jeans people, and we still come to work in cozy offices. A lot has changed in 43 years, but we’ve done a pretty good job of keeping much the same. ■

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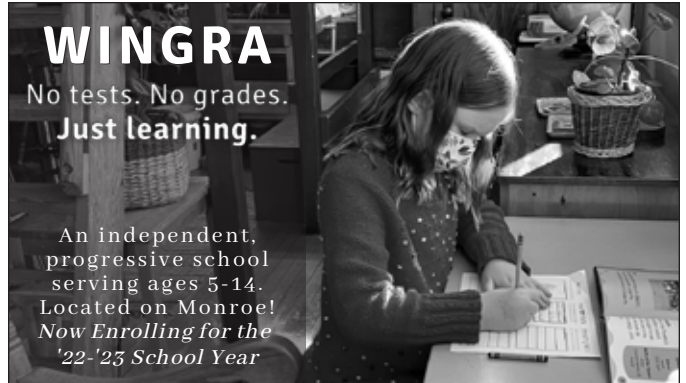
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“Cherry Jubilee”—Regent Neighborhood Fruit Trees Turn Six

On May 7, 2016, about a dozen neighbors came together to dig holes and plant three fruit trees on the north side of the triangle park bounded by Commonwealth and Hollister Avenues. While one tree did not survive the first year, the other two are thriving. Last summer, the cherry tree bore fruit, which those residents quick enough to notice very much enjoyed. Watch the trees’ progress in the weeks ahead. Thanks to the original crew who assisted the project and helped plant the trees (Karl, Susan, Ian, Ron, Tom, Andy, Douglas, Gary, Mary) and especially to Nathan Mahr who lives next door and watches them like a hawk. ■



After five years of growing, the RNA’s cherry tree produced delectable fruit last summer. (RNA photo)

Help!—West High Staff Need Parking

Construction has started at West High and will continue until the late fall of 2024. That means no on-site parking for authorized West staff.

West teacher Tony Zappia writes: We are so desperate for parking next year, especially for staff with young children. We would appreciate anything you could offer. If a resident wants to adopt a teacher for a semester or year that would be wonderful. If any resident could volunteer a spot, please contact me and we will gather a list to match teachers. We all have parking passes to identify our vehicles as West employees if that helps.

This is one of the biggest issues West will be facing in the next two years; it affects everyone. Day care for employees, substitutes, guest speakers, visitors to our school, and so many other issues stem from parking already so I can't imagine what the next two years will be like.



View from Highland Avenue of the construction that has started at West High and will continue through 2024.

If you can help, please contact Tony Zappia at ajzappia@madison.k12.wi.us ■

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,900. The deadline for the July edition is May 24, 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.