



# Regent Neighborhood

ASSOCIATION

Winter 2013 Newsletter | [www.regentneighborhood.org](http://www.regentneighborhood.org)

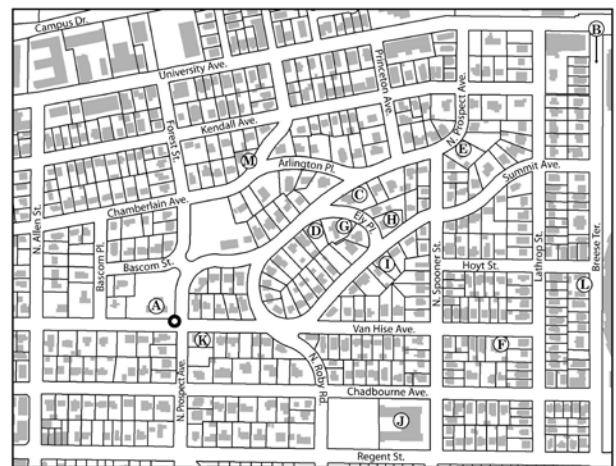
## The Vernacular Architecture Forum Visits University Heights

by Anna Andrzejewski

Back in June you may have noticed groups of people wandering around University Heights, some of them with cameras and notebooks. These visitors were part of conference held in Madison, the 31st annual meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF). The group of about 200 architectural historians and preservationists meets each year in a different location in North America to view the local architecture, and University Heights was featured on this year's tour.

The group was interested in University Heights for its domestic architecture as well as because of its history as one of Madison's first suburbs. Although undoubtedly interested in the well-known masterpieces by Louis Sullivan (the Bradley House, 1910; 106 N. Prospect), Frank Lloyd Wright (Gilmore House, 1908; 120 Ely Place), and Keck and Keck (Morehouse House, 1936; 101 Ely Place), tour participants also studied the exteriors of houses by other Chicago School architects and local architects and builders, including Claude and Starck, Conover and Porter, Alvin Small, and Charles Sumner Frost. The group also had the opportunity to tour parts of the interior of Terrace Homes (1927; 114-18 Breese Terrace), which was built as a co-operative apartment (and remains so to this day). Of great interest to the group was the variety of architectural styles in the neighborhood, ranging from prairie style to various historic revival styles, as well as the planning of the community around the steep topography.

These historians also visited other parts of Madison, including 3rd Lake Ridge and Eken Park (near east side), the UW Agricultural campus, Westmorland and Hill Farms, and Middleton Hills. A 315-page guidebook documenting the history of properties in these communities as well as thematic essays on Madison's architectural development was produced under leadership of the conference co-organizers, Professors Anna Andrzejewski and Arnold Alanen. Copies may still be available for purchase; if interested, please email [avandrzejews@wisc.edu](mailto:avandrzejews@wisc.edu). ■



- Ⓐ Bradley House, 106 N Prospect Ave.
- Ⓑ Breese Terrace, University Ave. - Regent St.
- Ⓒ Buell House, 115 Ely Pl.
- Ⓓ Elliot House, 137 N Prospect Ave.
- Ⓔ Ely House, 205 N Prospect Ave.
- Ⓕ Fett House, 1711 Van Hise Ave.
- Ⓖ Gilmore House, 120 Ely Pl.
- Ⓗ Morehouse House, 101 Ely Pl.
- Ⓘ Morris House, 1815 Summit Ave.
- Ⓙ Randall School, 1802 Regent St.
- Ⓚ Sallery House, 2021 Van Hise Ave.
- Ⓛ Terrace Homes Apartments, 114-118 Breese Ter.
- Ⓜ Whitson House, 1920 Arlington Pl.
- Pick-up and drop-off point

*University Heights tour map. Created by Margaret Raimann (UW Madison), based on mapping from the Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development, City of Madison.*

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**Madison, WI 53705**

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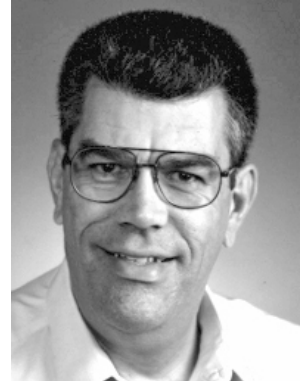
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## A Note from the President —

I HATE WINTER!!

I say that every year, but never move, because Madison and, especially, the Regent Neighborhood are such wonderful places to live. And besides, winters here are not what they were when I was a kid: no more snow during Homecoming weekend, no more big snow storms in April. And, when was the last time that we had ten days or more that the temperature didn't get above zero? My apologies to you skiers, and maybe it's because I'm getting old, but I don't miss those winters at all.



*RNA Board President  
John Schlaefer*

By the time you read this, the University Avenue Corridor Plan should be in the midst of the city's review process before it goes to the Common Council for adoption. I want to thank everyone who gave input during the process, and especially thank the members of the RNA Board that struggled with it, but saw it through. It will be good to have a plan in place to guide developers and city staff on any new development along the Corridor.

It's hard to believe that I am nearing the end of my time as president of the RNA. The bylaws prevent me from running for another term, so I plan on running for an at-large seat on the board. What this is leading up to is that one of my last responsibilities as president is to chair a nominating committee to put together a slate of candidates for the board election at the annual meeting in May. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please contact me. I hope to get the work done in two meetings, and no more than three, starting in early April.

— John

## RNA Board Meeting Schedule

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • <b>January 23, 2013</b>  | • <b>April 24, 2013</b> |
| • <b>February 27, 2013</b> | • <b>May 22, 2013</b>   |
| • <b>March 27, 2013</b>    | • <b>June 26, 2013</b>  |

The RNA Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7–9 pm at the Best Western InnTowner at 2424 University Avenue.

These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to RNA President John Schlaefer at john\_schlaefer@yahoo.com.

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,700. The deadline for the spring edition is March 31, 2013. We welcome articles of general interest to the neighborhood, discussions of local issues, personal interest stories, etc. Please address items or inquiries, or for current ad rates, to Mary Sarnowski, 238-1224, sarnowski@mac.com. Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Regent Neighborhood Association.

**Winter 2013**

# Vacant Lot on Regent Street Undergoes Renovation

by Tony Harth

The previously vacant lot adjacent to Regent Street has undergone a \$300,000 renovation in an effort to create a space that administrators say is “more representative” of the school. “The whole idea was to change the appearance of West,” says Principal Ed Holmes, “The past 30 years you’d come by West and see the old tennis courts and it would make us look, put nicely, like an urban school...like we are kind of rundown.”

Supported by West Alumni Group contributions, The Madison School District grants, and West High School funds, the renovations will provide two full-sized basketball courts, fitness stations, and classroom space.. “The space used to really bother me,” says Principal Holmes, “Now it represents who we really are; it is very important for me.”

The school intends for the area to be open to students as well as other people: Holmes says he hopes people in the surrounding area will utilize the new facilities. “On the evenings and weekends it will be open to the community...We want to be a user-friendly facility because West is right here in the community.”

While Principal Holmes is mostly optimistic about the new space, he also believes that this unrestricted use

could pose problems as well, “We hope we can keep it open all the time, but if the wrong people come and use the space and disrespect it we may have to gate it off.”

Travis Kell, a West High basketball player, says he is very excited to take advantage of the new courts: “We never really had a place by West that we could just go to and enjoy playing basketball with our friends, and Mr. Holmes did a good job providing that to us.”

Another West High senior, Megan Clark, says she has very little interest in using the new facilities “The only time I would go out there was when I had a gym class.” Clark does admit, however, that the new renovations look “nice”.

“With the new grass and the brick I think it looks really sweet,” Principal Holmes concluded, “I want to have a ceremony that introduces the space to the school and to the community... I don’t know what, or exactly when, but maybe a basketball event or a cookout.” ■

*This article originally appeared in the October 2012 edition of The Regent Review, Madison West High School’s newspaper.*

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# Winter Workshops for Owners of Older Homes

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation will present their annual winter series of Old House Workshops with technical information for owners of old homes and designated historic properties.

Workshops will be held at 7pm at the historic Gates of Heaven Synagogue in James Madison Park. Cost for the workshops is \$10 per person. Questions? Please call 608-441-8864.



*A craftsperson scrapes old paint from the ornate cornice of the Abraham Wood House, an 1853 Italianate house at 407 E. Main Street. Reynolds & Associates recently undertook extensive restoration of the house to convert it to their law offices.*

## February 7 **How to use the Federal Historic Home Owners' Tax Credit Program**

Preservation architect James Sewell, formerly of the Wisconsin Historical Society, will discuss the eligibility requirements, standards, and process for leveraging this important financing tool, available to owners of federally listed and eligible properties.

## March 7 **Life After Vinyl Siding**

Preservation architect Elizabeth Cwik will talk about safely removing worn and deteriorated synthetic siding materials, and what comes next. She'll discuss treatment options for newly exposed original siding, options for replacement of original materials, and how to deal with unexpected surprises.

## April 4 **Exterior Finishing and Painting**

Habitual building restorer and old-building expert John Martens will discuss all aspects of exterior refinishing, including lead paint abatement, repair of exterior materials, products and application, and the key to a durable paint job—preparation. ■

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# Greetings from Randall School!

by John Wallace, Randall School Principal

I strive to live in the present with an eye on the future. Still, spending my days with elementary age youngsters can't help but bring me back to times when I saw the world from their level. The archived mental movies my mind evokes are quick flicks. Watching a student play a piano piece during lunch recently blew the dust off a memory of one of my own past performances.

As a third grader, I pranced the few paces down Jackson Street from my father's clinic to Conn Music Store. Holding my hands against the window to shade the glare, I fixed my gaze on the golden trumpet on display. I was the product of big band parents and could match the names with the faces of such greats as Harry James, Louis Armstrong, and Al Hirt. My dad was all about gliding and sliding the trombone. I sensed I had him in my pocket on the purchase of the prized horn.

Daddy pulled his keys from the locked clinic door and made a military style about-face. I ranted like a magpie, stating the obvious as he beheld the trumpet for the first time. As I started to open the store door, his low and slow voice called me back to the sidewalk. He shared a short, but to-the-point story about how many second-hand trombones he had come to know before purchasing a brand new one. We made our way inside the music market, but I knew it was only procedural. A week later, I entered a studio for my first lesson, my used horn in tow.

I wasn't much for practice, which doubled my stage fright and sabotaged my recitals. Ballads like "Red River Valley" and fanciful fare such as "Carnival at Venice" had one thing in common. They featured that fiendish final high note, the nemesis that brought a forgiving smile to my audiences and tears to my eyes. The crowning blow was the night my heartthrob, recital pianist Eileen Wells, found my finale fatale humorous to the point of laughter. At that defining moment I left it to Herb Alpert and Chris Botti to woo and win the women through their toot sweet. I sold my trumpet.

The story would probably end there if it weren't for Wisconsin Public Radio. It's almost unfair how many classical pieces feature Scottish trumpeter John Wallace. Upon tuning midway into a work, I allow the celestial tones to arrest my shoulders and lift me off the planet into the clouds. The last notes leave me aloft until I hear the words, "... and trumpeter, John Wallace." May Day! May Day! I free fall back to



*Principal John Wallace accompanies rising star Parny Funk during Randall's lunchtime open stage*

earth, writhing in regret of my childhood failure and green as the growing ground with envy of the celebrated Scot.

Maybe if I could have practiced in a more motivating environment — if I could have performed in a less intimidating setting, I might be that John Wallace. On the other hand, perhaps he aspired to be a teacher, but his best laid plans "gang aley," as they "aft" do. Okay, maybe not. Truth be told, I wouldn't change places with trumpeter John Wallace for all the pounds sterling in the world. I suppose I should thank Eileen Wells for fashioning my fortunate career choice.

Our students have a fail-safe performance venue during lunch each day. Restaurant Randall provides an open mic and stage for willing artists. We maintain a bistro feel, allowing audience members to talk softly during performances. Doing so serves two purposes: It allows our students to enjoy their social time and it takes a little limelight off of the performers. Pianists, guitarists, violinists, singers and dancers are all welcome. We've had our share of jugglers and magicians as well.

I told my students this week that one of my New Year's resolutions is that we see more of one another. I added that they were definitely seeing more of me as a result of my holiday weight gain. We would like to see more of you. If you have the latent longing to perform during lunch at Randall, please let me know. We're an easy crowd and would love to have you under our roof. If you're planning to sing, I'm hoping I won't have to do a lyric screening, as we do with the kids.

Who knows? It could start here. By the way, beyond being a trumpet player, I've also always wanted to be an entertainment agent. I'll be sure to give you my card.

Go Raccoons!

## Alder Report, District 5

Dear Neighbors,

It is hard to believe that it has already been almost four years since you elected me as your alder. I look forward to representing you for another term.

Here is a summary of some key neighborhood issues:



*Alder Shiva  
Bidar-Sielauff*

- **A near-westside traffic study** funded by the City, UW, and Shorewood Hills is underway and should be finalized by Spring. Traffic patterns from Midvale to Breese Terrace and Regent to the UW West Campus area will be studied to assist with better traffic management for the entire area. My goal is to make sure that we look at comprehensive ways to reduce the commuter traffic impact on our neighborhood. You can find details about this project at <http://madison.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1242909&GUID=0C1CB6D6-169C-4F0F-98DF-A0DDC6CFD8A0&Options=ID|Text|&Search=traffic+study>
- **2224 Regent Street:** A four-unit proposal was presented at the second neighborhood meeting about this site. I will be sharing the formal proposal and city process timeline on the neighborhood listservs.
- **2635 University Avenue (former Scooter U site):** A demolition permit has been filed for this site and a doctor's office is being proposed. A formal proposal with the site plans and design will be submitted to the City. As soon as it is, I will make sure to share it on the neighborhood listservs.
- **1419 Monroe Street (Stadium Bar site):** Opus Development Corporation is proposing demolition of the current building and the construction of a 6- to 8-story apartment building with first floor commercial. A neighborhood meeting was held on December 6, 2012. A formal proposal with the site plans and design will be submitted to the City. As soon as it is, I will make sure to share it on the neighborhood listservs.
- **Construction season will be here soon.** We will have a major reconstruction project in the neighborhood: the installation of a large storm sewer main between Highland Avenue and 2202 University Avenue (Octopus Car Wash). The pipe installation will occur between April 14 and August 14 and will be combined with the reconstruction of

Highland Avenue (University Avenue to the Campus Drive Bridge) and the resurfacing of Walnut Street (University Avenue to the Campus Drive Bridge). Walnut Street will be closed to traffic for the duration of the project and Highland Avenue north of University Avenue will be reduced to one lane in each direction.

Thank you for your continued involvement in neighborhood and city issues. I feel honored to represent our wonderful neighborhood on the City Council and look forward to serving you for another term. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, and/or concerns. I can be reached at [district5@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district5@cityofmadison.com) or (608) 220-6986. ■



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# Dane County Board Report, District 10

I hope this edition of the RNA newsletter finds you and your family well in the New Year. This past fall the County passed its annual budget, while the State's imposed levy limit, which allows a levy increase equal to the greater of zero percent or the increase in equalized value due to net new construction, created constraints across the departments, I was proud that we were able to protect services and reasonably protect the property taxpayer. Here are some of the budget highlights:



*Supervisor Jeremy Levin*

## Human Services

- Homelessness
  - Funding for a temporary winter daytime shelter 2012-13 and permanent daytime shelter fall 2013. Single Room Occupancy housing for permanent solutions to homelessness (a two-year package of working with community partners) is in development.
- Early Childhood Intervention
  - Expanded the program to Sun Prairie. Created a "Birth to four-year-old kindergarten" program for Leopold School.

## Public Safety / Criminal Justice

- Created four additional drug court slots—expanded to ensure racial diversity in drug court.
- Expanded restorative justice programs to three additional middle schools to keep youth out of criminal justice system.
- Expanded jail AODA programs.

## Economic / Community

- \$100,000 for BUILD grants—grants to help communities and businesses, fostering job and economic development (this was eliminated in the past budget, County Board brought it back).
- Alliant Energy Center:
  - Funding for improved spaces (barn design and concert venue).
  - Study to improve AEC for the future; keep it viable without taxpayer funding.

## Environment

- \$500,000 for PARC (Partners for Recreation and Conservation) grants—grants to municipalities and organizations to improve infrastructure & public spaces for recreation.
- Carp Removal continued a second year in county board's "Clear Lakes" initiative.

- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) purchases to expand our CNG fleet, which is cleaner and cheaper than diesel.

Outside of the budget, in November the county opened our new Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) on the Northside of Madison, at 2865 North Sherman Avenue (the "Northside TownCenter"). It is a one-stop shop providing services and information for individuals and their families/caregivers. The center will assist people, free-of-charge, in identifying their needs and determining what resources exist in Dane County to best serve them. The center has created approximately 45 new jobs.

Finally, the county also opened our new recycling center. The facility with 'green' features will extend the life of the county's landfill and expand the popular Clean Sweep program year-round beginning the spring. Clean Sweep helps area residents safely dispose of hazardous materials like paint and cleaners that would otherwise sit in a home, or if not properly disposed of, make their way into area waterways.

As always, please feel free to contact me at levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us or call me at 608.577.9335 with specific questions and concerns. ■

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The advertisement for Midwest Dental features a logo with a stylized 'M' and 'D' inside a square. Below the logo is an image of dental tools, including a handpiece and a mirror, resting on a surface.

The logo for the University Avenue Discovery Center features a circular design with the words "UNIVERSITY AVENUE" at the top, "DISCOVERY CENTER" in the middle, and "PRESCHOOL" at the bottom.

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# Rain Garden Grows Out of Wingra School Unit

by Rebekah Young, Wingra School

Wingra School teachers didn't expect to help students plant a rain garden when they started their "Here We Grow" unit (focusing on gardening and their classroom community) in the Pond classrooms (ages 7 to 9).

Team teachers Angela Baker, Weslie Cymerman, and Tresi Smyth planned field trips to the Youth Grow Local Farm, Eagle Heights Community Gardens, and the rain gardens at Sequoya. They planned to plant bulbs in the garden boxes in the front of the school building, but it was the students who had the idea to plant a community garden.

Students were so engaged with what they were learning about gardens that at recess one day in early October they started looking for a spot to plant a community garden. They picked a grassy corner of the playground near the fence and started raking away the rubber chips that had migrated from the play area. Then they brought their idea to the teachers who supported and encouraged the project.

"When we saw that the location was right next to a storm drain, we decided a rain garden would make the most sense," says Weslie.

Angela, Weslie, and Tresi then gathered resources for the project, from books about rain gardens to meeting with Wingra School parents Julie Loehrl, a landscape architect, and Dave Herrmann, a parent with experience creating rain gardens. Native plants like black-eyed susans, purple cone flowers, and asters were donated by parents in the two classrooms.



*Students at Wingra School work to create a rain garden*

The spot students chose was close to a storm drain, and students and teachers took the opportunity to add a berm to help filter the rainwater before it reached Lake Wingra. A berm is a mound of earth that helps trap the rainwater so it can be filtered by the plants before traveling to the storm drain.

"I felt very, very proud that we could do the berm. I didn't know it could be done so quickly," says Elsa, age 8. "If there wasn't a berm, rubber chips could go into Lake Wingra."

Once the garden was planted, students made presentations to every classroom in the school, from kindergarten to eighth grade, about what a rain garden is, how and why they planted it, and how to play near it.

"You can teach kids about water quality and to not litter, but as soon as they can do something about it, they feel really empowered," says Weslie. ■



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## School News—

### **Act II of Madison West's 2012-13 theater season: *Singin' in the Rain* March 1-2 and March 8-9, 2013**

Don't miss this classic musical directed by Rebecca Jallings for her final Madison West Drama production. She will have directed and/or produced 58 shows since she started with *The Music Man* in 1989!

*Singin' in the Rain* offers a lighthearted depiction of Hollywood stars caught up in the transition from silent films to "talkies." It offers nonstop singing, dancing and goofing around, and is now frequently described as one of the best musicals ever made. The West High production stars features talented student actors, dancers, and chorus members. This production is sure to be memorable for all who attend!

If you or your children know Rebecca Jallings, then mark your calendars for May 26, 2013, for a gala retirement party and fundraiser to help buy new lights for the auditorium. For more information and to sign up to attend, go to the Madison West High School Fundraiser/Retirement Party page on Facebook. ■

### **From West High Athletics:**

#### **Rally for Regents!**

**Saturday, March 16, 2013, 7:00-11:00 p.m.  
Coliseum Bar, 232 East Olin Avenue**

Join the Madison West Athletic Booster Association for a casual night out with friends:

Appetizers \* Desserts \* Cash Bar \* Raffles \* Games\*  
Live & Silent Auction

\$25.00 per person. Please make checks payable to MWABA Rally for Regents and mail your ticket order by March 1, 2013 to:

Rally for Regents c/o: Julie Brown  
644 Pickford Street, Madison, WI 53711  
jjejbrown@gmail.com, 238-0683

If you can donate an item or an experience for the silent auction, please contact Julie Brown. ■

### **Major renovation ahead for West High School:**

West High is undergoing an extensive \$11 million renovation over the next two years. The school will be receiving a geothermal heating and cooling system that will balance the temperature throughout the entire building. It will have a state of the art, environmentally friendly heating and cooling system as well as new windows and shades. The school will be completely closed for the next two summers while it is under construction. In preparation for the

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extensive work over the summer, contractors have already begun removing ceiling tiles on the Van Hise wing of the building.

New security procedures have been in place at West for several months. Recently replacement security doors were installed at Tech Ed., the handicapped entrance off the inner parking lot, and the first floor entrance at the corner of Van Hise and Ash. The new doors will add both security and a greater level of insulation. ■

### **West High news- paper now online:**

West High's student newspaper, the *Regent Review*, now publishes online, offering school news, sports, student profiles, restaurant reviews, and advice for the lovelorn from Lunch Lady Louise. Read it at <http://www.westregentreview.com/> or sign up to follow @RegentReview on Twitter. ■

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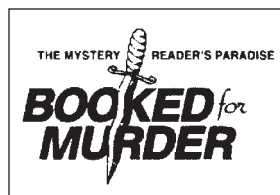
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# Booked for Murder has a Query for You

by Sara Barnes, Owner



Has a cure been found for cabin fever? Drop in for tea and scones —there's a book club just dying to meet you. Read about our **Booked for Mystery Book Clubs:**

**The Sunday Sleuths** meet on Sundays at 12:30 to discuss mystery books of note. Join us and have some fun meeting other mystery fans! Newcomers are always welcome! Planned discussion schedule:

- January 20 *Company of Strangers*,  
by Robert Wilson
- February 17 *The Wrong Kind of Blood*,  
by Declan Hughes
- March 17 *Come and Find Me*, by Hallie Ephron
- April 15 *City of Veils*, by Zoe Ferraris
- No book club meeting in May

**The Armchair Detectives** group led by former Booked for Murder owner and mystery maven, Mary Helen, meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Newcomers welcome! Contact Mary Helen Becker for further details: mhb1132@aol.com or 238-4332. Planned discussion schedule:

- January 9 *Oscar Wilde and the Vatican Murders*,  
by Gyles Brandreth
- February 13 *Death of a Gossip*, by M.C. Beaton

**The Notorious Canary Trainers** Sherlockian book club meets at 3:00 on Sundays to discuss the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Planned discussion schedule:

- February 17 *The Solitary Cyclist*
- March 17 *The Priory School*
- April 21 *Black Peter*
- May 19 *Charles Augustus Milverton*
- June 16 *The Six Napoleons*

**The Sunday Scandinavians (In a Cold, Dark Place)** will meet on the following Sundays, from 12:30pm–

1:30pm. They meet in celebration of the Scandinavian Crime Wave. Planned discussion schedule:

- February 24 *Echoes From the Dead*,  
by Johan Theorin
- April 28 *Last Rituals*, by Yrsa Sigurdardottir

**The Little Grey Cells**, an Agatha Christie book club, will meet on the following Sundays from 3pm–4:30pm. They welcome you to their discussions. Planned discussion schedule:

- January 27 *The Sittaford Mystery*  
(aka *Murder at Hazelmoor*)
- March 24 *Peril at End House*
- May 26 *A Pocket Full of Rye*
- July 28 *Why Didn't They Ask Evans?*  
(aka *The Boomerang Clue*)

**History's Mysteries** meet on the following Sundays at 12:30, and welcome any and all “detectives”. Planned discussion schedule:

- January 6 *The Cater Street Hangman*,  
by Anne Perry
- February 3 *City of Silver*, by Annamaria Alfieri
- March 3 *The Daughter of Time*,  
by Josephine Tey
- April 7 *The Janissary Tree*, by Jason Goodwin
- May 5 *What Angels Fear*, by C.S. Harris
- June 3 *The Right Hand of Amon*,  
by Lauren Haney
- August 5 *Sepulchre*, by Kate Mosse
- September 2 *The Poisoner's Handbook*,  
by Deborah Blum
- October 7 *Captain Alatriste*,  
by Arturo Perez-Reverte
- November 4 *Days of the Dead*, by Barbara Hambly
- December 2 *A Rare Benedictine*, by Ellis Peters

All Booked for Mystery book clubs meet at the store at 2701 University Avenue in Madison. ■



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# What I Like About Snow

by Linda Denise Oakley



I like snow for its warming effect.

Unless you're skating or ice fishing on it, ice and cold seem to have no warming effect.

Weeks into in my first real Madison winter, I woke up to find my lovely clump birch bent over at the waist with the top of each branch frozen solid to the ground. My panic was immediate. After several "Lucy and Ethel" rescue attempts I finally was able to free my tree, but I'll never forget the sight.

Of course, that much ice usually brings a week or two of subzero air temperatures with it. I recall over two weeks of minus-20 temps. After just a few days, every south-facing window in my kitchen had cracked but no warming effect.

Having moved here from California, I was determined to master winter. It didn't take me long to figure out the basics. For example, on the coldest day of the sub-zero temperatures, I joined most of the people living in Dane County and drove to Woodman's.

The local news had reported that cars on the beltline were suddenly coming to a complete stop because the frigid air was turning fuel and motor oil into pudding. So I got into my little 1987 Mazda B2000 truck, which started right up, and joined the 30-miles per-hour beltline parade.

We crept along through clouds of bright white exhaust snaking out of frozen tailpipes. On the way, I saw plenty of stern adult faces and lots of laughing, waving children. When I got to Woodman's parking

lot, the sight was surreal.

I had to decide if I was going to leave my little truck running or turn it off and hope it would start up again. A quick survey of the cars around me was inconclusive. So I let the motor run another 15 minutes, turned it off, and ran for the automatic doors which had stopped working. I shopped enough to fill one bag, my little truck started up again, and I crept back home. People didn't say much.

That's the way it is with ice and cold. Snow is different.

This year, on the morning of our first snow storm I jumped out of bed before 6:00 and pulled on all my snow gear over my hot pink pajamas. Hood over hat, mittens over gloves, pants over pajamas, boots zipped, and shovel-in-hand—I marched. As the first 10 pounds of soaking wet snow sat down on my shovel, my nose started to drip and nature called but it was too late. I was determined. My shovel had met snow. Surrender was not an option. The bright full morning moon blinked and another 10 pounds of wet snow moved.

Then all of my neighbors came out. We waved and shouted greetings and leaned into our shovels. The



*a wooden bench upholstered with snow*

*(continued on page 14)*

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thrower waved and roared along. The darling little neighbor dog that lives across the street loudly supervised us from her warm window seat. As sidewalks and drives began to reappear we compared travel schedules and figured out who might need help.

Then it appeared. It filled the bottom of our driveways waist-high with frozen comet debris. Everyone but me ignored it. I admit I still stop and glare. I know this makes me look like Agnes Moorhead in that Twilight Zone episode but I can't help it.

As the snow plow banged along I thought back to my first Madison winter in my first home.

I thought about the children next door who packed all the snow they could carry onto my steep driveway and turned it into a ski jump.

I thought about the people laughing as we climbed out of our bus that had just ditched in the snow. We made it to a second bus but that one ditched too so we all walked home.

That's the way it is with snow.

The snow plow is gone (for now), I stopped glaring, and everyone is working. Two of us joined the neighbor with the super big double-wide and together we dug out the last of the comet debris and the neighbor with the thrower made one last pass.

We finished just as it started to snow again, waved to each other and disappeared behind our front doors.

I took another minute to admire our triumph and assess the damage. But nothing hurt. No numbness or tingling. My breathing was fine. And the small chunks of frozen body fluids on my face didn't bother me.

That's what I like about snow. Those moments of triumph and the way snow warms people. ■

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# News From Regent Market Co-op

by Jim Yockey, RMC Board President



Regent Market Coop had a fantastic month in terms of December sales and continues to maintain solid profitability over this last year. We want to thank the neighborhood for its continued support and hope we can continue to meet your needs through a locally-sourced and locally-owned full line grocery.

RMC had its annual meeting on January 27th. We want to welcome new board member Jim Widder and wish farewell and a big thank you to two long-standing board members, Brad Wolbert and Joan Schilling. Both have served RMC during difficult times and the solid footing of the store is due in no small part to their guidance and leadership. The

board is looking for new members from the neighborhood, especially anyone with small business experience who loves local neighborhood owned grocery stores.

RMC is looking to its membership to help it expand over the next year through strategic partnership and a capital campaign intended to provide an updated look and feel to the store. We are also looking to expand product lines and provide a significant improvement to our produce section. We will provide more details on this initiative over the next few months both through our e-news and through the neighborhood listserv so stay tuned for more news.

Happy New Year and again thank you for your support. ■



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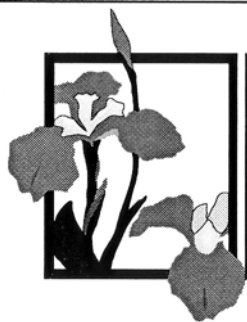
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