

# The RETIREE CENTER Newsletter



*Hello Retirees,*



It is unfortunate that I am starting yet another newsletter lamenting about the state of the pandemic. It's been quite a winter so far here in the Winona area. The Omicron variant has hit us hard. We've seen the highest number of cases in our area since the onset of the pandemic. The numbers at WSU have been high as well as we've started the spring semester. Nancy and I have been working from home for the past three weeks, and we may continue to do so until the numbers look better. Hopefully that will be soon. We are hearing about Omicron plateauing in parts of the country...hopefully we have hit our peak and we will be on a downward trend. I hope you have been able to stay healthy and safe during this time. I do so look forward to a time when we can get together in person for social events. Nancy and I miss seeing you face to face!

That being said, The Retiree Center is continuing to offer great programming for you. We have started our Senior U offerings for the semester with two hybrid-model (in-person and Zoom) courses; *Globalization: Good or Bad?* with Yogesh Grover and *The Politics of Environmental Policy* with Darrell Downs. We have had a few people come to class in person, but the majority of students are participating through Zoom. The hybrid format seems to be working well. We have 5 more Senior U courses starting this spring (see details on [page 3](#)). Some of these courses are going to be offered entirely in-person on campus. We are hoping that we can continue with this plan while adhering to all of [WSU's COVID guidelines](#). Please look over the offerings and join us for a class if you can. We have several courses being offered in the hybrid model or completely via Zoom which means that those of you who are not in the Winona area can participate right along with us locals! I think you will really enjoy being in class with your friends and former colleagues. There is definitely a sense of connection that happens during these classes. It's wonderful to be able to talk with one another and learn together from our amazing instructors.

We are also continuing to offer our "Retiree Center Coffee Break" every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. I have to reiterate that those of you who live across the country can participate in these monthly talks. We regularly have Peter Henderson from Florida and Charlotte Speltz from North Carolina join these sessions. It's so great to be able to connect with them in this way even though they are miles away. It's always interesting to hear about their weather (we Minnesotans are very jealous of them at this time of year!). Our next coffee break is coming up on Tuesday, February 8th at 10am. Our guest speaker will be Jeanine Gangeness, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs on the WSU-Rochester campus. We are excited to hear updates about the Rochester campus as well as information about the growth of our graduate programs on campus. Please join us if you can.

Before I wrap this up, I have to give a special thanks to Bill Meyer and David Robinson for continuing to contribute such interesting, fun-to-read articles for this newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading their columns as much as I did. I also want to direct your attention to the photos from our Living History Project Premiere on [page 5](#). This was a great in-person event on December 6th of last year. If you weren't able to be there, you can still watch the four fantastic documentaries on our website: <https://openriver.winona.edu/livinghistoryproject/> Nancy and I wish you a very happy spring!

— Jess

## RETIREE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

*To support the mission of WSU and enrich the campus community as well as the lives of retired staff, faculty and administration by providing institutional connections between the University and retirees who may wish to continue their intellectual and social participation in collegial life and service to the University.*

# RETIREE GUEST COLUMNIST: DAVID ROBINSON ON THE CURRENT STATE OF MOVIE-GOING (OR NOT-GOING)

## Retiree Center Advisory Board

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## Contact Us

1st Floor of the  
Alumni House  
227 W. Wabasha St.

Winona State University  
PO Box 5838  
Winona, MN 55987

507-457-5565

[Retiree@winona.edu](mailto:Retiree@winona.edu)

[www.winona.edu/retiree](http://www.winona.edu/retiree)

### Director:

Jessica Kauphusman

### Office Manager:

Nancy Amann

"I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!" Moviegoers of a certain age—yes, gentle reader, I'm talking about you—may recognize this as the most memorable line from the 1976 film, *Network*. Released for the lucrative Thanksgiving holiday, the film was both a popular and a commercial success, winning Oscars for Peter Finch for Best Actor, Faye Dunaway for Best Actress, and Paddy Chayefsky for Best Original Screenplay. The script was subsequently voted one of the ten greatest in cinematic history by Chayefsky's fellow screenwriters. In short, it was a "big" movie with some theatrical/intellectual heft. And it made money!

I've been thinking about *Network* for some time, now, as I read, listen to, and write about the helpless anguish many of us are feeling heading into our third year of the pandemic. In the movie, people are incited by newscaster Howard Beale (Finch) to open their windows and scream his outraged comment into the street—an eerie, ironic preview of the last couple of years when people were cheering on the health professionals desperately trying to "flatten the curve," banging on pots and pans, singing, playing horns to encourage them.

Now, of course, those medical heroes are being overwhelmed, in some part because a large percentage of Americans are refusing to get vaccinated. Movie theaters, many of them just emerging from having been closed, are battling to get people back in the seats, buying popcorn, and enjoying the movie and each other's company. A local theater here in Madison offered alternate showings of the remake of "*West Side Story*": one for vaccinated and another for the rest. Theaters in New York demand that playgoers show proof of vaccination to enter and remain masked during the performance.

But the only kind of movies that seem to be turning a profit are the current *Spider-Man* flick and, more recently, a sequel to the "*Scream*" movies, the fifth in a series that has lain dormant for over a decade. Oh, and there's yet another *Batman* flick due out in March: I confess to have lost track of how many Batperson predecessors there are.

Movie industry scorekeepers report that the target audiences for these lucrative epics are primarily young men. Not only are the Marvel comic book spectacles aimed squarely at this demographic, but the slasher movies draw them in droves. One critic wryly understates, "the younger audiences that go to horror movies have much lower level inhibitions." To say the very least. Like Howard Beale, I'm mad as hell that we have come to this sorry pass.

Meanwhile, "small" movies go wanting for an audience or find it only on Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, Apple+, et al. Golden Agers such as me are happy to have these shows. I loved the low budget Oscar winner *Nomadland*, for instance, but if I had wanted to see it in a local theater I would have had to wait for a year after its initial release. My wife and I enjoy watching at home, as many of my fellow elders say they do, and you can't beat the cost, the comfort, and the convenience, especially now that the joys of subzero temperatures are upon us. Still, I'd be willing to brave the elements and go to a little film in a small theater tucked away in the corner of a multiplex.

Back in the Before Times, one of our favorite treats was "late lunch and a movie." Somebody else made and brought us food. We didn't have to fear that we might catch a deadly disease while watching, dining, and talking about the film and how it worked (or didn't) on the big screen. We had become the "early birds" I used to condescend to—and we loved it! When there's not much to do at night, it's lovely to be home before dark. In my late 70s (yikes!), I am coming to enjoy smaller stuff, including smaller movies on smaller screens with an audience of two watching. Less, as the saying used to go, may be more.

# SENIOR UNIVERSITY SPRING 2022



Senior University is in full swing this spring! We are currently enjoying Yogesh Grover's course on Globalization and a course on Environmental Politics with Darrell Downs. We do still have space in the five classes listed below. If you're interested, please register soon to reserve your spot!

<b>BIOMEDICAL ETHICS</b>	<b>Patrick Clipsham</b> <b>Maxwell Hall 378</b> (taught in hybrid format)	<b>Thursdays</b> February 17, 24 March 3, 17, 24 3:00-4:30 p.m. \$40.00
<b>WHAT ARE WE MADE OF?</b> <b>A PHYSICIST'S PERSPECTIVE</b>	<b>Andy Ferstl</b> <b>Pasteur 229</b> (taught in person)	<b>Tuesdays</b> March 15, 22, 29 26, April 5, 12 10:00 -11:30 a.m. \$40.00
<b>A BRIEF HISTORY OF JAZZ:</b> <b>1965-PRESENT</b>	<b>Rich MacDonald</b> (taught via Zoom)	<b>Mondays</b> March 21, 28, , April 4, 11, 18 2:30-4:00 p.m. \$40.00
<b>"BOGIE": THE ESTABLISHMENT</b> <b>AND DEVELOPMENT OF A</b> <b>FILM PERSONA</b>	<b>David Robinson</b> <b>Science Lab Center 120</b> (taught in person)	<b>Tuesdays</b> May 3, 10, 17 24, 31 1:00-3:00 p.m. \$40.00
<b>SHAKESPEARE IN</b> <b>PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Jane Carducci</b> <b>Room TBD</b> (taught in person)	<b>Mondays</b> February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1 2:30-4:00 p.m. \$40.00

## REMEMBER TO KEEP US UPDATED...

Please remember to keep the Retiree Center updated with your current mailing address and email address. If you need to report a change, please email us at [retiree@winona.edu](mailto:retiree@winona.edu) or give us a call at 507.457.5565.

# RETIREE GUEST COLUMN - BILL MEYER

*“Just a city boy, born and raised in South Detroit, (actually I was born in St. Paul) He took the midnight train going anywhere”....lyrics from the song *Don’t Stop Believin’* by Journey.*

I don’t know when my love affair with trains started. Maybe it was when my dad surprised me on Christmas Day and bought me a Lionel train for Christmas back in 1955 and set it underneath our Christmas tree. Or maybe it was a few years later when I took the Northern Pacific (now Amtrak’s Empire Builder) train from St. Paul, MN to Beach, ND where I stayed at my uncle’s western ranch for several weeks. But, at an early age I loved any opportunity to ride the rails and have continued to choose and prefer this mode of transportation.

No other form of transportation compares with train travel. Riding on a train beats the stressful time spent with air travel. Waiting in long lines to check in luggage at the airport and then sitting in pitifully small seats placed too close together on the airplane is not my preferred way to travel. Traveling by air is not traveling, but simply changing locations. The airplane experience is getting from one point to another, while the train ride is part of the experience.

Boarding Amtrak is a much easier and simpler process. This past fall, my wife Jo and I climbed onto Amtrak’s California Zephyr and handed the conductor our tickets. After boarding the train the conductor helped us to our own private room. Then, the fun began! We kicked back in our comfortable seats and watched a sensational sunset through a big picture window.

At bedtime, the Sleeping Car Attendant came by and converted our two seats and table into an upper and lower berth and provided us with necessary bedding and pillows. Sleeping in a berth can be a challenge, especially the top berth which is inches from the ceiling. It’s not for everyone, but there is nothing like falling asleep as the train gently sways back and forth. I always sleep well on the train as I listen to the lonely distant train whistle.

During the day the time goes quickly. There is much to do on the train. A nap might be one person’s choice while reading a good book might be another’s preference. I always enjoy walking through the train and spending time in the observation car. It is an excellent place to check out the amazing scenery and countryside through large panoramic windows. You can snack or have a beverage of your choice and sightsee while sitting in comfortable chairs. It is also a good spot to meet fellow travelers and strike up a conversation.

Dining on the train can be a fun adventure, too. Contrary to popular belief, the food is tasty and well prepared, especially if one is traveling in a sleeping car. Amtrak gives dining car preference to those passengers traveling in the sleeping cars. The interesting feature of eating in the dining car is that one has the option of sharing a table with fellow travelers. Most of the time this adds to the travel experience. My wife and I have met marvelous people who share the love of train travel and are willing to share travel stories.

Years ago, while traveling on the train called “The City of New Orleans”, we shared a table in the dining car with another couple. We had ordered our meal with a bottle of wine, but our meal was held up for unknown reasons. Our dining car waiter apologized for the delay and offered us an additional bottle of wine free of charge which we could not decline. Eventually, a delightful meal arrived and all were happy, plus we had the chance to meet and talk with an interesting couple. (continued on next page)





# BILL MEYER CONTINUED

My wife and I have traveled on Amtrak numerous times; taking the Lakeside Limited to Boston, the Empire Builder to Portland, and the California Zephyr out to Oakland. They all have been multi-day trips involving sleeping on board and eating meals in the dining car.

We have taken shorter trips on Amtrak, too. One year shortly after we were married we took a train from Minneapolis to LaCrosse and brought our bicycles aboard. Yes, Amtrak will allow this practice. After debarking in LaCrosse, we spent a week riding our bicycles across the state of Wisconsin.

In my earlier years I had the opportunity to travel on many European trains. At that time, a ticket called a Eurail Pass could be purchased for \$100.00 that would allow one unlimited train travel across most of Europe for one month. This gave my traveling companion and I the chance to see many European countries back in 1966. One major difference between European trains and American trains (Amtrak) is that European trains run on time. Amtrak shares the rail lines with freight trains and this often results in lengthy delays.

Many private trains offer scenic rides often lasting about a half a day or less. These rides usually take passengers through some of the most scenic and picturesque landscapes in the U.S.A. Some even offer a restored steam engine pulling the train.

Whether it's Amtrak or a private company, maybe it's time to sit back, relax, and enjoy train travel. All aboard!

## FALL 2021 LIVING HISTORY PROJECT PHOTOS



John Ferden & his student group



Serena Holstad & her student group



Joanne Rosczyk & her student group



Richard Shields & his student group

# CALENDAR

## February

### WAZOO TALKS:

#### SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUCCESS

Wednesday, February 16 - 11:00 am - via Zoom  
Nursing Professor Chrissy Heine will discuss her  
"Healthy Hands, Healthy Kids" community  
engagement project which received a WSU  
curriculum grant in 2021,  
Zoom Meeting ID: 952 9470 8806



#### FROZEN RIVER FILM FESTIVAL

February 9-13, 2022



### ON THE INSIDE FILM SCREENING:

#### FREE CeCe

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. - SLC 120  
Reception to follow at Watkins Gallery

### COMMON BOOK KEYNOTE SPEAKER

#### DR. JAMIL ZAKI

Topic: The War for Kindness  
Wednesday, February 16, 2022  
7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
[Pre-Register link](#)



#### RETIREE CENTER COFFEE BREAK

Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Via Zoom - Guest Jeanine Gangeness

## March

### WAZOO TALKS:

#### SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUCCESS

Wednesday, March 23rd - Noon - via Zoom  
Mary Jo Klinkner will discuss her "LGBT Books to  
Prisoners" project which received a WSU  
Curriculum Grant in 2021  
Zoom Meeting ID: 937 7222 9796



#### RETIREE CENTER COFFEE BREAK

Tuesday, March 8, 2022  
10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Via Zoom - Guest TBD

### ON THE INSIDE:

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY KEYNOTE

Monica Cosby  
Tuesday, March 1, 2022  
7:00 p.m. - Science Lab Center 120



#### WSU SPRING BREAK WEEK

WSU will return to a full Spring Break week  
this year from March 7-March 11  
Retiree Center will remain open



#### WINONA SYMPHONY SPRING CONCERT

Saturday, March 19, 2022 - 7:30 p.m.  
Wesley United Methodist Church - Winona

# CALENDAR

## April

### WATER MUSIC WITH WINONA SYMPHONY

#### PALE YELLOW/FIERY RED

Thursday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m.  
Minnesota Marine Art Museum

### MIDWEST MUSIC FEST

Friday-Saturday, April 29-30  
Many venues all across Winona



### RETIREE CENTER COFFEE BREAK

Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Via Zoom - Guest Scott Ellinghuysen



### EARTH DAY

Friday, April 22, 2022

### ARBOR DAY

Friday, April 29, 2022  
Watch your email for WSU celebratory events

### BLUFF COUNTRY STUDIO ART TOUR

Friday-Sunday  
April 22-24, 2022  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Locations throughout SE MN and Northern IA

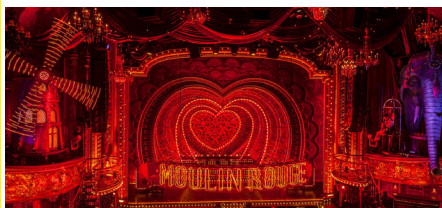
## May and Beyond

MORE EVENTS MAY BE ADDED  
DEPENDING UPON WHAT IS  
HAPPENING WITH COVID-19



### RETIREE CENTER TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY CUBA DISCOVERY

October 17-23, 2022



### RETIREE CENTER DAY TRIP

Thursday, May 19, 2022  
*Mouin Rouge* at Orpheum  
Details/registration in Feb.

### GREAT RIVER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

SEASON 18: JUNE 18-JULY 31, 2022

SEE DETAILS ABOUT OUR SENIOR U COURSE - [PAGE 3](#)

### WINONA STEAMBOAT DAYS

JUNE 15-19, 2022



### WSU COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 6, 2022



### MN BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL

June 26-July 17, 2022





# IN MEMORIAM



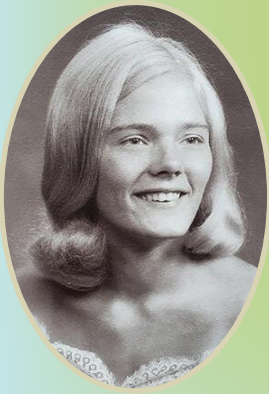
*Arden Fitzgerald  
Facilities  
October 21, 2021*



*Evelyn "Jo" Van Doperin  
Spouse of Hank Van Doperin  
October 23, 2021*



*Margaret "Jean" Safranek  
Business Office  
December 6, 2021*



*Judy Loewen  
Biology  
December 22, 2021*



*Rose Smith  
Student Union  
January 8, 2022*



*Robert Raz  
English  
January 17, 2022*



*Arlayne Fremling  
Spouse of Cal Fremling  
January 18, 2022*

## THE PERKS OF BEING A WSU RETIREE

- Athletic Events: Free admission to regular scheduled campus athletic events
- Teaching, Learning and Technology Services: Free campus offered classes when space available
- Free WSU retiree e-mail
- WSU Fitness Center access at employee rate
- ID card for all retirees - ID card serves as WSU library card
- Free parking pass for all lots, must renew each year
- 15% discount on clothing and WSU gifts at bookstore, no books
- Printer, scanner, and copy access at the Retiree Center (up to 10 pages per visit at no charge)
- Notary Public Services available at the Retiree Center at no charge

