Our first UW-Madison Retirement Association luncheon was on Tuesday, October 5, 2010. The morning program featured University Carillonneur Lyle Anderson, who informed us about "The University of Wisconsin Memorial Carillon." He presented a brief history of the instrument and its music along with the development of our particular carillon. He even bought the smallest bell for us to appreciate their immense weight. The luncheon program speaker was Kenneth Goldstein, a UW-Madison Professor of Political Science, who briefed us on the 2010 campaign and provided historical context. We were at the East Side Club with a buffet catered by Gaylord’s. Eighty registered for the morning program and a hundred for lunch.

On Thursday, November 11, the morning program was highlighted by Marc Vallon, Associate Professor of Bassoon in the School of Music, accompanied by flutist Dawn Lawler and pianist Diana Shapiro, who was momentarily expecting twins. They played several melodic bassoon ensembles plus original pieces written by Professor Vallon. Associate Vice Chancellor and University Chief of Police Susan Riseling was our luncheon speaker. Chief Riseling showed several historical presentations on her years as the University Police Chief since 1991. She shared examples of how UW police respond in unique ways to crisis situations and security through the application of problem-oriented policing practices and effective problem solving. Queen Anne’s Catering served our lunch at the West Side Club. Seventy-two were registered for the morning program and 92 for the luncheon.

Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2011, brought out hearts and Wisconsin red attire for our luncheon served by the Blackhawk Country Club. And what could be more appropriate for our morning program than a rich chocolate box assortment of poems entitled "Love over 60: an anthology of women’s poems" edited by Professor Emerita Robin Chapman and Jeri McCormick? Their breadth of love poems found places to resonate with each person. Attendees could purchase the book. Our luncheon speaker, Barry Levenson, brought us "Seeds of Passion–Meet the Mustard Maestro." Barry is Curator of the National Mustard Museum and brought his wit and craziness for the most fun we’ve ever had with a condiment. (No ketchup allowed.) Six people were selected to receive zany degrees upon graduation from Poupon U, and we all sang a rousing Poupon U Fight Song. Available for purchase were several of Barry’s books, mustard ties, and selections of mustards, including Valentine’s Day mustard. Chocolate hearts in red foil were purchased from Melli Chocolates for a table favor. Registration for the morning program was 86 and 124 for the luncheon.

On Monday, May 9, at 10:00 a.m. at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, the Luncheon Committee welcomed to the piano keyboard Karlos Moser, Emeritus Professor from the School of Music. Karlos played a grandiose program of "Brazilian Tangos and American Rags: Similarities and differences in these popular piano pieces around 1900-1930." Feet were tapping and bodies were moving to this energetic and enlivening program with Karlos’ informative comments. Following the 11:00 Retirement Association Annual Meeting, our luncheon speaker was Dr. Carl Weston, Medical Director of HospiceCare, Inc. Carl provided basic information about hospice—background, organization, how it works, misconceptions—and distributed a Hospice Care booklet. There was plenty of time for dialogue and questions. Queen Anne’s served the luncheon. Registrations were 141 for the morning program and 163 for the luncheon.

At each luncheon, the Board of Directors encouraged the collection of nonperishable food items, cash and checks to help with our community’s continuing need at food pantries. The donations were distributed to food pantries at the Goodman Community Center, Middleton Outreach Ministry, First United Methodist Church, and St. Mark’s Lutheran Church.

The faithful members of the Luncheon Committee who create these educational and entertaining programs are Darrell Barth, Buff Brennan, Art Hove, Joel Skornicka, Barb Wiley, and Gail Holmes and Jack Ladinsky (co-chairs).