Luncheon Committee Report for 2013-14
Gail L. Holmes, Chair

On Monday, October 14, 2013, the UW-Madison Retirement Association Luncheon Committee welcomed six talented students from the Young Shakespeare Players who performed a series of scenes from Richard II for the morning program. Professor Patricia Flatley Brennan graciously agreed to speak on “Envisioning the Future of Health@Home: The Living Environments Laboratory of the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery” when Donna Katen-Bahensky, president and CEO of the UW Hospital and Clinics was unable to speak. It is astounding the broad spectrum and number of individuals and disciplines included in this research. We were at a new venue, the Knights of Columbus, with a new caterer, JL Richards Catering. There were 68 for the morning program and 83 for the buffet lunch.

Professor Michael Connors, founder of the UW Digital Printmaking Center, was featured at the Wednesday, November 13, 2013, morning program at the East Side Club. He shared fascinating visuals and paper copies of how new technologies can be integrated with traditional printmaking techniques. He also shared environmental connections of plants, animals, and humans. Ted DeDee, President and CEO of the Overture Center, was our luncheon speaker on “Looking Forward to the Next Ten Years at Overture.” He described the interesting plans being formulated now to provide growth and outreach in the community and region for the Overture Center’s programs. There were 64 for the morning program and 76 for the buffet lunch provided by another new caterer, Greg DeBroux Catering.

On Wednesday, March 25, 2014, two speakers presented the morning program. Karen Dunn spoke on “From Soup to Nuts: Exploring the Steenbock Library Cookbook Collection” and passed around copies of old cookbooks. Then Terese Allen shared culinary traditions in “The Flavor of Wisconsin: History Through Recipes.” She helped us reminiscence about our favorite foods and encouraged us to incorporate new ethnic recipes and products into our cooking. Professor of Physics Francis Halzen guided our knowledge and understanding of “Ice Fishing for Neutrinos” at the Wisconsin IceCube Particle Astrophysics Center in Antarctica. He brought along one of the 86 basketball-sized light detectors that are lowered 1.5 miles deep into the Antarctic icecap to capture blue light in the clear ice caused by neutrinos passing through the Earth. There were 64 for the morning program and 70 for the lunch served by the Coliseum Bar and Banquet.

The May 6, 2014 luncheon and annual meeting were held on a beautiful sunny spring day at the UW-Madison Arboretum. Emeritus Professor of Music Marc Fink presented “The Oboe Revealed: A Behind-the-Scenes Look” with an entertaining selection of famous oboe pieces and lively repartee about the oboe and its players. Luncheon speaker Jerry Apps from CALS presented “You’re Going to College? Why?” He shared his absorbing life’s story going from days as a farm boy with polio who recovered to a young man earning undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. degrees at the UW-Madison, and those influences upon his adult life and career paths. There were 102 registered for the morning program and
111 for the luncheon catered by Gaylord’s Catering.

At each luncheon, the Board of Directors encouraged donations of cash or checks to help with our community’s continuing need to procure food at pantries. The donations were distributed to Grace Episcopal Church, the Salvation Army, Allied/Dunn’s Marsh Neighborhood Association, and St. Vincent de Paul food pantries.

The resourceful Luncheon Committee members are Darrell Barth, Buff Brennan, Gail Holmes (chair), Debbie Lauder, Christine Schindler, Joel Skornicka, and Barb Wiley. Providing educational, timely, entertaining programs for UW-Madison Retirement Association members and guests as well as an opportunity for fellowship is our goal.