

The Emeriti News

A Quarterly Newsletter for Northwestern University Emerita & Emeritus Faculty

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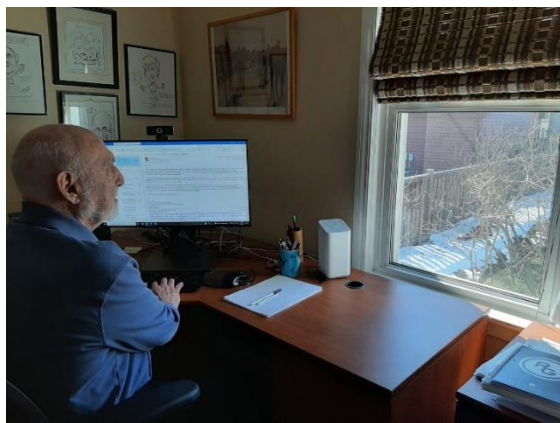
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From NEO President [Erv Goldberg](#)

As another winter of pandemic concerns draws to a close, we can see changes beyond buds appearing on bushes outside my window. The thing about this time of year that I still feel most strongly about is that it signals the end of Winter Quarter classes. Even though this is the shortest term in the academic year, I always found it to be almost interminable (from a biological, circadian standpoint). I wonder if my NEO colleagues remember it this way.



NEO President Erv Goldberg drawing inspiration and hope from the melting snow out his window. Photo courtesy Pauline Bentley.

I am delighted to announce that a grant proposal we submitted to the [NU Alumnae](#) early in the year was successful. We asked for and were awarded funding of close to \$10,000 to implement a **mobile hybridization capability**. Funds will be used to procure technology and training to support simple, lightweight streaming for video/audio, enabling us to share programming with our geographically distributed membership. In addition, this new capability will expand our pool of candidates to serve as officers and on the NEO Executive Council. And on that note: it is nearly time to elect officers and committee members, so I would greatly appreciate hearing from any members willing to serve. We are profoundly grateful to the [Alumnae of Northwestern University](#) for this award.

Our first dinner since the start of the pandemic was enjoyed by a large number of NEO members and guests—those who were able to attend in person. Our speaker for the evening was Professor **Barbara Newman**—see our [report](#) below—and we were able to live-stream her presentation, which will now become common for future events. These will include a luncheon in April with a talk by **Nyree Zerega**, who is in charge of the Botany Doctoral Program in the Department of Molecular Biosciences and who uses research facilities at the Chicago Botanic Garden. A dinner gathering is scheduled in June featuring Professor **Robert Gundlach**, who wears many hats at Northwestern including having served for decades as director of the Writing Program. He is also heavily involved with NU athletics. For details on these and other events, see the [Emeriti Calendar](#) near the end of this issue.

Finally, NEO is busy preparing to host the Big Ten Retirement Association Annual Conference on the Evanston Campus in August. See the [update](#) from [Al Telser](#) and [David Zarefsky](#).

I look forward to greeting many of you in person at these events! And with that, I wish a happy welcome to Spring for all my NEO colleagues.

FROM THE EDITOR

[Jeff Garrett](#), Editor, *The Emeriti News*

I first want to share the news that—in the absence of a palace revolt, plans for which I might be oblivious to—I plan to remain editor of *The Emeriti News* for the next year, even as I begin my term as NEO president in July. Inexplicably perhaps, I enjoy the work of assembling each issue, but above all I enjoy being in touch with so many colleagues, not just in Evanston—my professional home for close to



Your editor introducing speaker Barbara Newman at the February 8 NEO dinner in Scott Hall. Click [here](#) for a summary of the evening!

20 years—but also on the Chicago campus, which I once knew only as a distant and mysterious place. In my year as immediate past president, starting in mid-2023, I expect to turn the levers of power over to others—drawn perhaps from the insurgents of the AP Style Movement or even members of the notorious MLA Style gang. I myself, of course, am a card-carrying adherent of the [Chicago Manual of Style](#), and I have canisters of [Oxford commas](#) in my orthographic armory to prove it.

In this issue, beyond what Erv mentioned in his message above, we report on our very successful mini-course “[Perspectives on French Impressionism](#)” offered in collaboration with Evanston Public Library and taught by our NEO colleague Prof. **Holly Clayson**. We also look ahead to the

Spring Quarter mini-course on the U.S. Supreme Court taught by Prof. **Jerry Goldman**. Our [emeritus portrait](#) this issue features Dr. [John Raffensperger](#), the author not only of textbooks in his field of

surgery but also of books on the history of medicine, books for children, and several detective novels starring none other than Sherlock Holmes. You will also find our familiar regular columns: the [Provost's Corner](#), this time presenting the—frankly unsettling—report of the Faculty Pandemic Impact Response Workgroup, [The Emeriti Bookshelf](#), and [Passings](#), edited by [George Harmon](#).

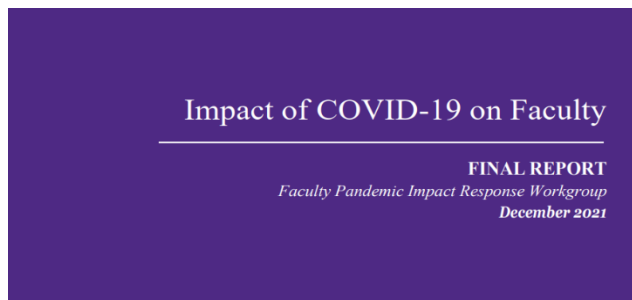
Very encouraging has been the response to our call for more emeriti bios! NEO's administrative assistant **Gina Prokopeak** curates this project, and you can read her comments—and follow the links to over 20 new bios—in her [report](#) below.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Emeriti News*!

PROVOST'S CORNER

BY CELINA FLOWERS, ASSISTANT PROVOST FOR FACULTY

Winter Quarter 2022 has been quite busy in our office. A key focus of our work has been to understand the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on faculty and the development of creative and forward-thinking strategies to support faculty as they continue to face challenges in how they do their work as educators, researchers, mentors, and creators. The **Faculty Pandemic Impact Response Workgroup** [report](#)



Click on this image to be taken to the full report of the Faculty Pandemic Impact Response Group.

summarizes the input received and lists a number of recommendations centered around five broad themes: Career Recovery, Caregiving, Health and Well-being, Institutional Response, and Communication.



In early March, the Office of the Provost hosted a presentation about the workgroup report and pandemic resources for faculty, both current and planned for the future. View the [presentation slides](#) to learn more about this work—and see a few excerpts from faculty interviews immediately following.

Closer to home, I am happy to report that beginning this Spring, NEO will be able to accept credit card payments for member event contribution fees. All of the hard work to navigate the vendor options and figure out how to set up a payment portal has been led by **Gina Prokopeak**, NEO administrative assistant, and I want to take a moment to thank her for these efforts. This change will make it easier for members to participate in activities organized by NEO, and will create some much-needed administrative efficiencies in supporting these speaker events.

As we move into Spring term, planning for the Big Ten Retirees Association (BTRA) meeting will pick up even more. As shared [elsewhere](#) in this newsletter, your intrepid co-planners, [Alvin Telser](#) and [David Zarefsky](#), have developed a dynamic and engaging set of speakers and sessions. This program will be an excellent opportunity to showcase our beautiful campus, facilities, and people. I look forward to reporting more on this program in the coming months.

THE OTHER LONG COVID

COVID'S IMPACT ON NU FACULTY, EXCERPTED FROM THE [FPIR WORKGROUP REPORT](#)

"I expect that for me the most noticeable impacts of the pandemic will be indirect. **At my career and life stage (full professor with independent children) the pandemic adjustments were relatively easy and well-contained.** In contrast, the impact on students and advisees, especially graduate students and postdocs with whom I work quite closely, and on junior colleagues is far greater. I feel very concerned about the long-term impact on these early stage colleagues both in terms of the health consequences (physical and mental) and on their academic/professional trajectories. I don't yet know what precise form these impacts will take but I feel sure that we will all need to make many adjustments to the way we operate and how we define/evaluate success. I feel that people in my relatively untouched position will need to make adjustments that we haven't (and really, can't) imagine yet. I hope we can/will rise to this essential challenge."

"Increased childcare, mentoring, and service demands resulting from the pandemic have virtually obliterated my research productivity. As a primary caregiver, childcare responsibilities have meant I have had no time or mental space to write or conceive of articles or grants . . .

Over the next three years, I expect a **significant dip in my research output, which will mean a lower raise and longer time until promotion.**"

"In [more than 30 years] of teaching, **I have never seen anything like the current levels of anxiety on the part of the undergraduate students.**"

"The damage done to the social fabric of our scholarly community has to be repaired somehow. **My PhD students will continue to need extensive advising help that will continue to be enormously time consuming and emotionally-intellectually draining.**"

"My research involves fieldwork and archives which have been closed for the last 14 months and there is no timeline for reopening. This is going to lead to a large gap in output several years down the road (right now if you were to look at my CV it would look like I was unaffected, but that's largely due to the time lag in publication. A year or two from now the gaps will be evident). Honestly, I'm wondering **if I should switch to a different type of research altogether** since it's so unclear when I will be able to resume the activities I was trained to do."

INTRODUCING OURSELVES INFORMALLY
22 EMERITI ADD BRIEF BIOS TO THE NEO WEBSITE

Since late last year we have more than doubled the number of informal emeritae and emeriti biographies we make available to each other. We now have 43 bios on our website—still a small number considering that there are 622 emeriti, but we think the idea is catching on. It’s been a delight reading them!

Did you know that, as a child, one NEO member met Orville Wright? Another attended a one-room school in rural Illinois. There is a professor who is an expert in numismatics and yet another who is an avid racquetball player. So many wonderful and inspiring stories and reasons to connect. We hope and believe you will find these profiles interesting and enjoyable.

If after reading some of the bios you find here, you want to add a bio yourself and send us a picture, please email it to Gina Prokopeak at gina.prokopeak@northwestern.edu, or fill out the [bio form on our website](#). You may also update an existing bio. We look forward to hearing from you!—[Gina Prokopeak](#) and [Jeff Garrett](#)



[Ronald Braeutigam](#), Economics, Weinberg

[Stephen H. Carr](#), Materials Science and Engineering, McCormick

[Robert T. Chatterton, Jr.](#), Obstetrics & Gynecology, Feinberg

[Tom Collinger](#), Integrated Marketing Communication, Medill

[Susan Mango Curtis](#), Journalism, Medill

[Kenneth F. Janda](#), Political Science, Weinberg

[Hervey Juris](#), Strategy, Kellogg

[Philip Kotler](#), Marketing, Kellogg

[Frederick D. Lewis](#), Chemistry, Weinberg

[Rex A. Martin](#), Music Performance, Bienen

[David Nahrwold](#), Surgery, Feinberg

[Emile A. Okal](#), Earth & Planetary Sciences, Weinberg

[Abe Peck](#), Journalism, Medill

[Mark A. Reinecke](#), Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Feinberg

[Stuart Rich](#), Cardiology, Feinberg

[Richard J. Roth, Jr.](#), Journalism, Medill

[Elfiede Pahl Schuette](#), Pediatrics, Feinberg

[John Sciarra](#), Obstetrics & Gynecology, Feinberg

[Siavash H. Sohrab](#), Mechanical Engineering, McCormick

[Kenneth Seeskin](#), Philosophy, Weinberg

[Owen R. Youngman](#), Journalism, Medill

[Jon Ziomek](#), Journalism, Medill

THE POET AND HIS BELOVED RECALL THEIR VISIT TO UKRAINE

A SONNET BY JOHN WRIGHT

In Kiev (as it was) they stayed three days.
Hard to tell which was more formidable:
The beauty of the city (beyond all praise),
Or their hosts, whose energy redefined “hospitable.”

Then to the river boat, waiting on the Dnieper.
Their stateroom was a cabin. No room for porches.
They were guided by a Russian navy wife, their gatekeeper,
Eager to show them villages and “chorches.”

On to the Black Sea, the next lap on their chase.
To Odessa with its family-friendly Steps.
And Sévastópol with the Russian naval base.
And Yalta: the very room where the Big Three met.

Now they stare at the TV screen aghast.
Each picture is more painful than the last.

—John Wright (2022)

*Editor’s Note: **John Wright** is retired professor of Classics, emeritus since 2002. He is married to his muse and frequent traveling companion [Ellen Wright](#), emerita since 2016. Like Ellen, John is a bluegrass musician. Together they have performed before large audiences in Kentucky and to smaller crowds elsewhere in the country. For more about John Wright’s poetry, see this issue’s [Emeriti Bookshelf](#).*

BIG TEN RETIREE ASSOCIATION MEETS AT NORTHWESTERN AUGUST 1–3 AN ADVANCE LOOK FROM [AL TELSER](#) & [DAVID ZAREFSKY](#), PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Plans are now well advanced for the Big Ten Retiree Association (BTRA) to meet at Northwestern this summer. The dates are Monday through Wednesday, August 1-3.

The BTRA is an organization of retirement associations (similar to NEO) at the Big Ten universities. It convenes a meeting each summer at one of the participating schools. Each association is invited to send two delegates. The summer meeting features sessions on topics of common interest as well as an opportunity to showcase the host institution.

NEO is the sponsor of this year's meeting. Planning efforts are coordinated by past NEO presidents [Al Telser](#) and [David Zarefsky](#), with financial support generously provided by the Office of the Provost.

At the August meeting, Provost **Kathleen Hagerty** will address the delegates and guests at dinner on Monday, August 1. There will be two featured faculty presentations: one by **John Rogers**, the Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly Querrey Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Neurological Surgery, on nanotechnology and medical diagnostic devices, and one by **E. Patrick Johnson**, Dean of the School of Communication and Carlos Montezuma Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies, on the place of the arts in a research university, with special reference to diversity and inclusion.



Provost Kathleen Hagerty will be the dinner speaker on the first day of the meeting. Photo NU [Office of the Provost](#).

There also will be three panel sessions on topics of common interest. One, on newsletters and related means of communication, will feature [Jeff Garrett](#), emeritus librarian, current editor of *The Emeriti News*, and president-elect of NEO. A second will address town-gown relations and will feature **Dave Davis**, executive director of neighborhood and community relations. The third, on the internationalization of the university, will feature **Baron Reed**, professor of philosophy and incoming assistant director of the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs.

Rounding out the program are the annual BTRA business meeting and an opening session in which delegates will be invited to report on “the new normal” in their associations.



This will be the first time BTRA has met on Northwestern's beautiful campus since meetings began 25 years ago. Photo Jeff Garrett.

In addition to meals and refreshments, the program will also include a walking tour of south campus and a North Shore tour featuring the Baha'i Temple and the Chicago Botanic Garden.

NEO's two coordinators are enthusiastic about the coming event. “The BTRA has been meeting for over 25 years, but Northwestern has never hosted the group before,” Telser explained. “So we are not only looking forward to showing off Northwestern's beautiful campus, but we also have recruited a few of our distinguished colleagues to highlight different aspects of the University's excellence.”

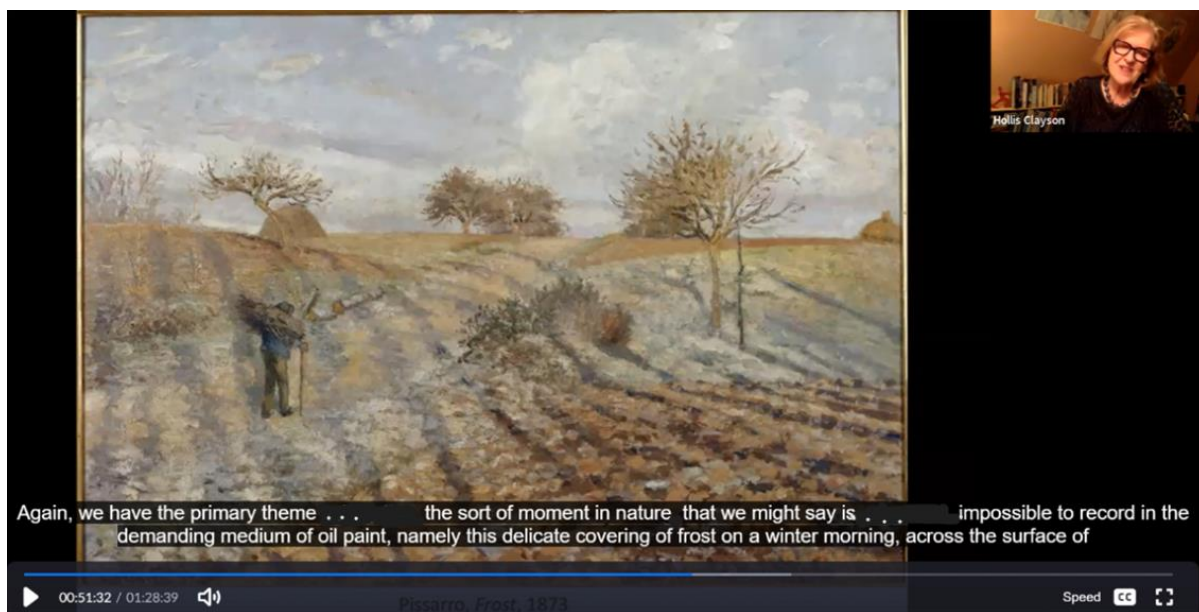
Zarefsky added, “The BTRA has had to cancel its last two summer meetings because of Covid. We are optimistic and hopeful that we will be able to meet in person this summer and take advantage of what Northwestern has to offer.”

A MINI-COURSES UPDATE

HOLLY CLAYSON PRESENTS “PERSPECTIVES ON FRENCH IMPRESSIONISM”

[“Why go to Paris since Paris has come to Chicago?”](#) asked the *Chicago Tribune*—rhetorically, of course—back in 1888. This seemed an appropriate question at the time in light of the extraordinary amount of French Impressionist art being purchased in those years for Chicago museums and private collections—by famous collectors and philanthropists Potter and Bertha Palmer among others. Last year’s [Monet and Chicago](#) exhibit made the extent to which Chicago embraced this new art movement manifestly clear.

“Why go to Paris since Paris has come to Chicago?” was probably a question the 180 attendees of the most recent NEO mini-course, [Perspectives on French Impressionism](#), were also asking themselves as they listened and watched and discussed over two sessions while their instructor, Prof. emer. **Holly Clayson**, engaged them in a thought-provoking, richly illustrated conversation about what made this particular artistic movement so strikingly innovative.



The Zoom experience included reproductions of beautiful art—as well as closed captioning that was (mostly) helpful—except when Manet was rendered as “money” and “pastel” as “pesto.”

We won’t be recapitulating these two sessions here. As NEO members—and thanks to the pandemic miracle known as Zoom—you can experience both the [January 18](#) and [25](#) sessions directly yourselves. Given the size of the class, questions were asked via Zoom chat rather than live in real time, and the many questions Holly did not get to during class were captured in the “Zoom log” and responded to offline with a transcript going to all participants. These exchanges were often quite remarkable. Let’s listen in for a moment:

01:29:07 Anneke: Were artists limited in the number of works they could exhibit in the Salon?

[Clayson:] Has there ever been a more complicated art enterprise? I don't think so. It turns out to be very hard to pinpoint and to generalize about. For those interested in learning about the institution in detail, please consult chapter one, "Pictures to See and Pictures to Sell," of Patricia Mainardi's fine book, *The End of the Salon: Art and the State in the Early Third Republic*, Cambridge University Press, 1993.

01:30:14 Laurie Merel: Was the development of railroad travel important in broadening access to the countryside to painters & to the public?

Yes, absolutely. The lines that ran out of the Gare St. Lazare to the northwest suburbs and beyond were essential. As were the longer lines out of the Gare de Lyon to the Côte d'Azur slightly later.

01:30:23 Joyce Miller Bean: How did the general public feel about the impressionists?

Largely confused, against or indifferent. For detailed information on the responses to each of the eight exhibitions, see Charles S. Moffett (ed.), *The New Painting: Impressionism, 1874-1886*, 1986. (I wrote the essay on 1876, the second show.)

Information on the availability of these books at Evanston Public Library or through interlibrary loan was then provided. The quality of questions and answers alike affirms that Chicago is truly the "home away from home" for French Impressionism. We deserved this mini-course!

Finally for this academic year, in Spring Quarter: Prof. emer. **Jerry Goldman** (Department of Political Science) will present on **SCOTUS: Law and Politics**. (April 26 & May 3). This mini-course will acquaint participants with the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). Prof. Goldman's synopsis: "The Court is both central and ill-fitted to our democracy. Once you grasp this central contradiction of the Court's role—that it is both a legal and a political institution—you will be in a good position to evaluate its work. This Janus-faced impression is baked into the institution and has been reinforced throughout its existence." [Course Description & Registration Page](#).—[Jeff Garrett](#)

Holly Clayson comments on her own mini-course experience: "I much enjoyed delivering two lectures on a topic of longstanding interest to me to the invisible attendees of my course. I'm told there were about 180 folks logged in. The much-appreciated 'glue' between my audience and me was the Chat Log. Several of the queries entered into the Chat were shared with me live during the last 10 minutes or so of each lecture. For example, seeing the interest in photography that arose in the January 18 questions, I was able to juice up the consideration of the relationship between painting and photos in the January 25 class. The entire collection of entries in the Chat came to me subsequently for responses. The interactive document (the annotated Chat Log made up of questions from participants in black type followed by responses from me in red) complemented the recording of my lecture. Last point: one amusing quirk of the technology undergirding the Zoom sessions was this (I was told by a class member): the captioning of my talks produced some amusing results. For example, 'pastel' became 'pesto.'"

WILLIAM CONGER: RECENT WORK



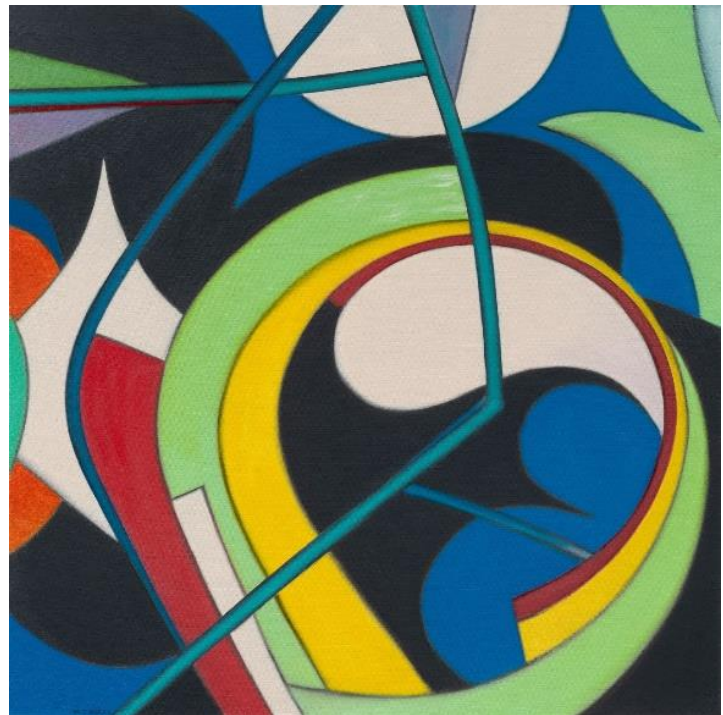
I began these paintings as sketches, painting directly on the canvas and then gradually refining the shapes and colors with both hard and soft edges to suggest illusionist space and ambiguous references.

Both paintings symbolize abstract persona. It's as if art itself is an alternative realm where conscious figural identities act willfully in pictorial space, selfishly manipulating it within the rectangle of the flat canvas. The paintings invite viewers to pretend themselves to be that consciousness practicing magic or thieving in that separate realm of art."

Thief, oil/linen, 36x36 inches, 2021. Reproduction courtesy of the artist.

*Editor's Note: Artist **William Conger** retired from Northwestern's Department of Art Theory & Practice in 2006 after teaching at NU since 1985. His work is on permanent display at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Union League Club, and in numerous other major public, corporate, and private collections across the United States. The [William F. Conger Papers \(1971–2010\)](#) reside at Northwestern University Archives.*

*Wizard, oil/linen, 36x36 inches, 2021.
Courtesy of the artist.*



RECENT TALKS & EVENTS

OUR PERMEABLE SELVES

BARBARA NEWMAN ON “PERSONHOOD” IN THE MIDDLE AGES—AND TODAY



Scott Hall on the Northwestern campus in Evanston, early evening on February 8, 2022, the setting for Barbara Newman’s talk.

The evening of February 8, about 70 NEO members and guests gathered for dinner in the Guild Lounge of Scott Hall. In a first for NEO, they were joined by other NEO members who participated virtually via Zoom—a “hybrid” capability which is one of the few good things to come of the COVID pandemic. Our after-dinner speaker was the distinguished Northwestern medievalist Professor **Barbara Newman**, who spoke about her book *The Permeable Self: Five Medieval Relationships*, recently published by University of Pennsylvania Press. This book, as she explained, had been many years in the making, but was finished in the middle of enforced isolation during the lockdown of 2020. She noted how poignant it was that a book about human interconnectedness, about “the personal revealed *as* and *through* the interpersonal,” had to be completed under such circumstances, making her feel even more strongly that what she calls the “permeability” of human personhood needs to be explicated and defended. In our day, the notion of personhood is extraordinarily complex and contradictory. In law, for example, corporations are considered to be persons while intelligent beings like dolphins and chimpanzees are not. What can medieval belief teach us that might inform our thinking today?



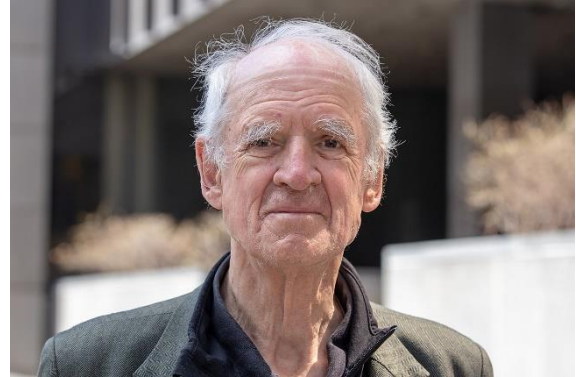
Professor Barbara Newman



Christ gives his heart to St. Catherine. Paris, BNF ms. allemand 34, fol. 54r.

At the core of Newman’s book is a discussion of five medieval relationships, in other words “not individuals in their solitude, but interpersonal relations at a certain pitch of intensity where the boundaries between persons seem to blur.” The relationships she introduced to her audience: the sharing of hearts between medieval lovers; St. Augustine’s pedagogical ideal of the “mutual indwelling” of master and student; the ability of both saints and possessed people to read minds; the relationship of pregnant mother and her (literally) indwelling child; and finally the relationship between God and the devil in the bodies of the possessed.

In her consideration of these relationships, Newman was inspired by philosopher **Charles Taylor**, who, in his book [A Secular Age](#) (2007), observed that the premodern self was more porous than the bounded or buffered self that has replaced it in modernity. In the Middle Ages, meanings did not arise and inhabit the minds of bounded individuals, but instead (as Taylor wrote) inhered in “charged entities” such as the Holy Spirit, demons, saintly relics, and the hundreds of kinds of blessed or cursed objects. They drew humans into their force fields and exerted a kind of spiritual and physical power over them. So meanings and power were not centered in individuals, but rather existed in a “kind of interspace” (Taylor), straddling what only in modern times has become the enclosed space of personhood. Newman’s book is all about this “interspace.” It considers spirits and demons, but dwells most intently on human relations and how these create us as sentient, emotional beings. As Barbara Newman explained, Taylor’s notion of the premodern self gives us a way to understand ourselves as being inherently open to spiritual and communal influences and less confined within our “selves” than in modern philosophies. She introduced the notion of “coinherence,” which derives from theology and might be defined as mutual indwelling—in Greek, *perichoresis*—but which is “not just about the fine points of Christian theology and it’s not exclusively medieval or Western either.” She mentioned the widespread African term (and concept) of *Ubuntu*—“we are, therefore I am”—and introduced several modern examples of coinherence, making it clear that there is a continuity of interrelationship which deserves our attention rather than fixating solely on the ego and independence we moderns are taught to revere.

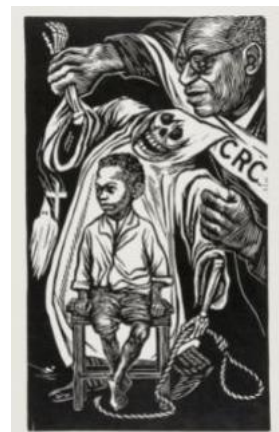


Canadian philosopher Charles Margrave Taylor (b. 1931)

Following the many talks on topics in the sciences and engineering NEO members have attended (and enjoyed) over the past year, it was exciting to hear what a renowned humanist scholar has to contribute to our understanding of the human condition. The Q&A following Professor Newman’s talk was lively and entertaining. We look forward to more in-person presentations—with simultaneous online participation of many more NEO members regardless of where they reside in the world.—[Jeff Garrett](#)

Image right: [Elizabeth Catlett, Civil Rights Congress \(1949\)](#)

Join us on Tuesday, May 10, 11am – 12:30pm for a Special NEO **Private Tour** of the exhibit [A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence](#) at The Block Museum of Art on Northwestern’s Evanston campus. Registration is limited to the first 25 persons. To register: [click here](#).



EMERITUS PORTRAIT

LET'S MEET THE TSAR, RASPUTIN, AND, WHILE WE'RE AT IT, AL CAPONE

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. [JOHN RAFFENSPERGER](#), SURGEON AND AUTHOR

The Emeriti News: Dr. Raffensperger, you were surgeon-in-chief at Children's Memorial in Chicago, but a salient fact of your life is that you obviously enjoy writing, and in many different genres: not just textbooks and medical history, but also mysteries and crime fiction, American frontier history, even children's books. How do you explain this powerful urge to write and share?



John Raffensperger and wife Susan Luck—like her husband a pediatric surgeon—with Dr. [Jinzhe Zhang](#), surgeon-in-chief at Children's Hospital in Beijing, 1998. Photo courtesy John Raffensperger.

John Raffensperger: I can explain. My mother, in the early 1930s during the depths of the depression, started a public library in Henry, our very small town along the Illinois River. She collected donated books, had local folks make shelves, and started the library in the basement of an abandoned bank. She had a Saturday story hour for kids—and got them hooked on reading. Another one of her tricks was when, say, a retired farmer asked for “something to read,” she started him out with Zane Grey stories. Since I had easy access to all sorts of books, I became an omnivorous reader and at a very early age thought I could write stories—but didn't get around to it until much later.

TEN: You went to medical school at the University of Illinois College of Medicine,

graduating in 1953 before interning at Cook County Hospital. That was a pretty grim place in the 1950s and 60s, wasn't it?

JR: I was a student, intern, and resident at the Cook County Hospital during the 1950s. I then became an attending surgeon there during the '60s, so I know the era well. Have you seen my book, *The Old Lady on Harrison Street: A History of the Cook County Hospital*?

TEN: No, I haven't, though I see it's in many Chicago-area libraries and other libraries across the US, including the National Library of Medicine. There's also a used copy available on Amazon for 60 bucks.

JR: A shame that it's out of print. In that book I record a good deal of the history of those years, including a chapter on Dr. **Karl Meyer** (1888–1972), the director of the hospital since the 1920s. He was an autocrat in the days when surgeons-in-chief almost single-handedly ruled hospitals. I was his resident in 1960. He was one of the most skilled surgeons I have ever seen.

TEN: But what about all the stories Chicagoans grew up with about the troubled state of that hospital fifty and sixty years ago?

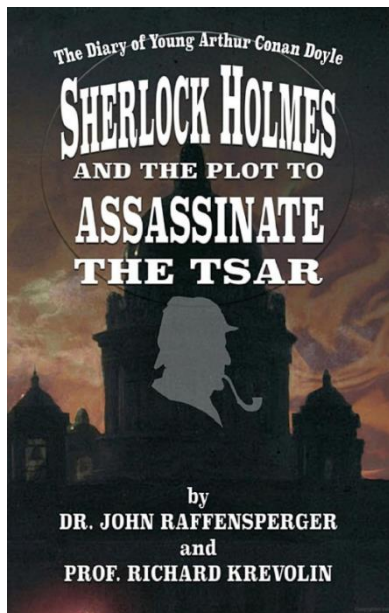
JR: A lot of people blame Karl Meyer for the miserable conditions of the hospital, but the fault really lies with the crooked politicians—and taxpayers who didn't care about poor, sick, usually Black patients. Some saw him as getting the best deal possible from the politicians. Alright, he definitely lasted there too long. All city-county hospitals faced the same problems in those days.

TEN: Years after you were a resident at Stroger (as we call it now), in 2008, you wrote a bloody crime thriller set in Cook County hospital—and I see you just revised it. The new title is *The Deadly Blue Diamond*. The revised version came out just a few months ago. The hero is a young surgeon who has to remove a diamond that once belonged to Al Capone from the entrails of a dying gangster—and is then accused of stealing it. There is a chase scene that leads through the streets of Chicago into Bubbly Creek and then out onto storm-tossed Lake Michigan.

JR: That's a good synopsis. Taken off the back cover of my book?

TEN: Yes, I confess. And then you've written several works of detective fiction—featuring none other than Sherlock Holmes! One of them, co-authored with Richard Krevolin, lets us make the personal acquaintance of Rasputin and Dostoevsky.

JR: The Sherlock Holmes books are the result of an article I wrote, "[Was the Real Sherlock Holmes a Pediatric Surgeon?](#)" Joseph Bell was a professor at Edinburgh who took Arthur Conan Doyle on as his clerk when Doyle was a medical student. Doyle modelled Holmes on Bell. I wrote three books about the young Holmes, before he became the great detective, including *Sherlock Holmes and the Plot to Assassinate the Tsar* (London: MX Publishing, 2017).



TEN: I wish we had more time to discuss other works of yours, but would you mind if we shared your children's books with the children of one of our staff members for their reaction? No promises!

JR: Not at all. In fact I would love to know what they think!

TEN: Any concluding thoughts on the state of the university?

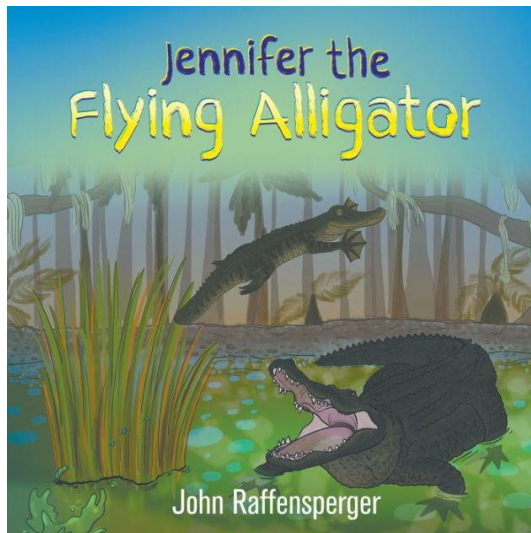


Karl A. Meyer, appointed superintendent of Cook County Hospital at the age of 28. Between 1945 and 1952, he was also a professor of surgery at Northwestern. Source: [Hektoen International: A Journal of Medical Humanities](#).

JR: It is sad to see libraries such as Northwestern’s Galter Medical Library putting older books and journals in remote storage. I spent a lot of time just wandering the stacks and finding treasures that I included in several books.

TEN: Thank you for this conversation, Dr. Raffensperger!

Jeff Garrett conducted this conversation for **The Emeriti News**.



As a postscript to our conversation with John Raffensperger, here is a review of his *Jennifer the Flying Alligator* (Singapore: Strategic Book Publ., 2022). Our reviewer: Gina Prokopeak’s daughter, age 6.

Did you like the book? Yes. Why? I just like the part where Jennifer flies. It was surprising. When you saw the picture on the cover, what did you think this book was going to be about? I thought it was about an alligator that jumped over another alligator. Who was your favorite character and why? I like Jennifer. She was super nice. What most surprised you about the story? When she flew into the air. Why do you think Jennifer wanted to leave where she grew up? Because it was dangerous. What did Aklofee

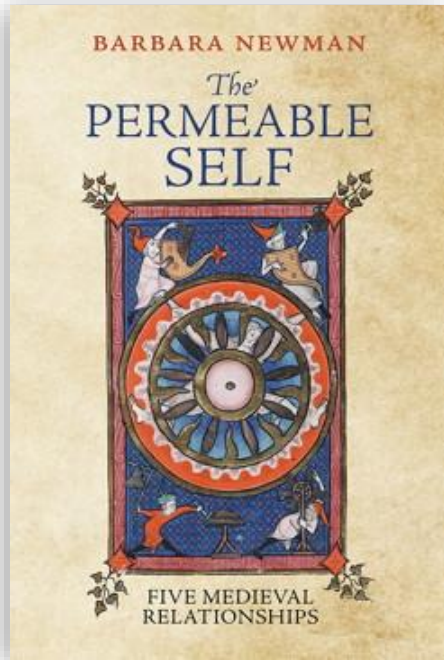
teach Jennifer? Peace. What did Jennifer learn during the story? To be peaceful and how not to hurt others. Would you like to read more about Jennifer? Yes. What adventures do you think Jennifer will have? Maybe the kids grow up and they fly and the same thing happens to them, but they know they can always fly back to their mother.

NEO administrative assistant **Gina Prokopeak** conducted this conversation for **The Emeriti News**.

THE EMERITI BOOKSHELF

This column draws attention to recent books published by Northwestern emeriti—fiction as well as non-fiction—especially titles of interest to general audiences. We also include older works by emeritae/-i featured in this newsletter, as well as interesting works by non-emeriti who have spoken at recent NEO events. Unless another source is stated, these books may be purchased directly from local independent bookstores—many of which, largely as a result of the pandemic, now have robust and efficient e-commerce sites—or from [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org), [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), [Indiebound](https://www.indiebound.org), as well as other online sources.

Readers are encouraged to send title information to [the editor](#) to be considered for inclusion in this column. Please note that you do not need to be the author to suggest a title for mention! Feel free to confidentially inform on your friends and colleagues!

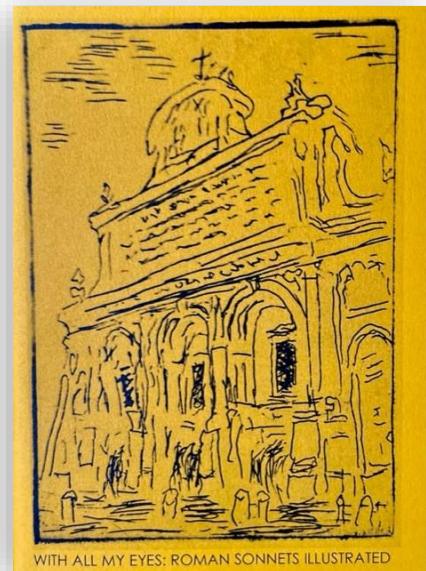


Barbara Newman. **The Permeable Self: Five Medieval Relationships.** The Middle Ages Series. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021. 440 p., 10 b/w halftones, 1 table. ISBN 978-0-8122-5334-4 (hardcover). \$69.95

We asked Barbara Newman where the inspiration came for this, her latest book: “I have had a lifelong fascination with Charles Williams (1886–1945), though I doubt anyone has ever heard of him. Williams was an English poet, novelist, playwright, and lay theologian—one of the most underrated British writers of the early 20th century. He was surely also the least known member of the [Inklings](#), the literary discussion group mostly associated with C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien at the University of Oxford. Williams promoted the idea of co-inherence in many of his works, and in *The Permeable Self* I pay off an intellectual debt that I’ve owed for decades.”

John Wright, trans. & illus. **With All My Eyes: Roman Sonnets Illustrated.** Evanston, Ill.: Privately published, 2020. 64 p. \$7.

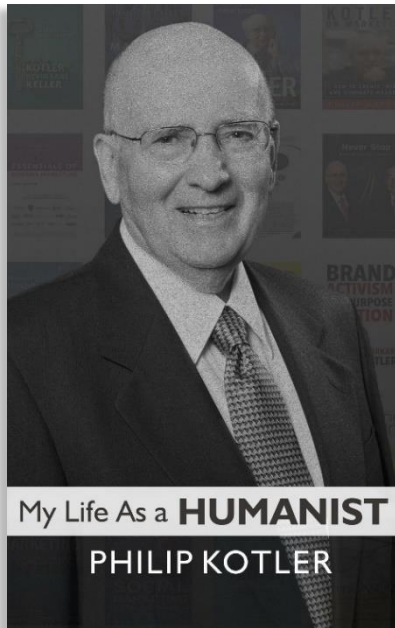
“Not long ago, after one of several trips to Rome, I started translating sonnets written in Romanesco dialect during the 1830s and 40s by G.G. Belli (1791–1863)—published as *I Sonetti romaneschi*. Inevitably I started thinking in the sonnet form: the beginning, the middle, and the end, with a little stinger to wind it up. I slipped one or two original sonnets about our Roman experiences into the Belli collection, and then started writing original sonnets exclusively, amounting to an autobiographical family history.¹ As it did with Belli, sonnet writing has become a habit with me, though I have some time to go before I reach his phenomenal total of 2,259 original poems.”



¹ J.H. Wright: *A Spinney of Sonnets*. Evanston: Privately published, 2021. Available from [Bookends & Beginnings](#) in Evanston. \$7.00.

[Philip Kotler](#). **My Life as a Humanist**. N.P.: Kotler Impact, 2022. Kindle edition. \$9.99

From the publisher’s description: “Travel has taken [author Kotler] to most of the world’s countries. Audiences have asked many interesting questions. They want to know his views on a number of tough issues affecting their lives and careers. He would answer most questions without the consideration these questions deserved. Acknowledging this, he believes that he now can give better answers than before.”

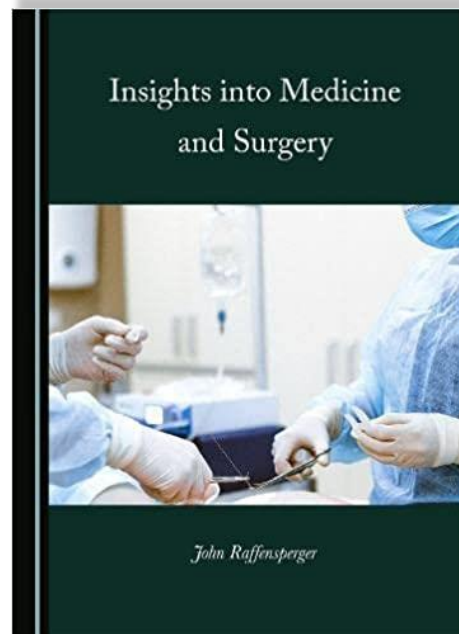


Kotler—emeritus since 2018—added in a note for readers of *The Emeriti News*: “This book is my second autobiography: in 2017, I published [My Adventures in Marketing](#). This new book came about as a result of books that I have written since 2017: [Confronting Capitalism \(2015\)](#), [Democracy in Decline \(2016\)](#), and [Advancing the Common Good \(2019\)](#). I realized that my whole philosophy centered on humanism, a concern with humanity. In *My Life as a Humanist*, I explore the nature of humanism and the interconnections guiding our economic and political systems and the Common Good.”

[John Raffensperger](#). **Insights into Medicine and Surgery**. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2022. 168 p. ISBN 978-1-5275-7801-2 (hardcover). \$99.95.

A fascinating potpourri of the author’s essays and book chapters from the past 30 years, intended for physicians and non-physicians alike. “Several of these essays are about little

known aspects of medical history,” Raffensperger wrote to *The Emeriti News*, “such as why Hippocrates opposed abortion as well as operating to remove bladder stones. Others reflect my experience as an intern and resident at Cook County Hospital.” (This latter experience also led to a crime novel, *The Deadly Blue Diamond (2022)*², in which a young surgeon is pitted against mobsters, crooked cops, and equally crooked Chicago politicians.) In addition, *Insights into Medicine and Surgery* describes the author’s experience with the greedy for-profit health care system in the United States, providing the basis for suggestions to reform medical education and introduce a not-for-profit universal non-governmental and regionalized system for the delivery of health care in America.



² See an earlier version of this crime thriller published under the title *Diamonds of Death (2008)*. Discussed in [The Emeriti News 15 \(Summer 2019\)](#), p. 9–10.

PASSINGS

Column Editor [George Harmon](#)

Note: We list Passings each quarter as we learn of the news. Please keep us informed of such events, readers, and don't be shy about adding your own observations about our beloved emeriti.



Albert Farbman, 87, who did pioneering research in taste and smell, died February 10, 2022, at his Evanston home after a struggle with Parkinson's disease. His achievements include first describing the fine structure of taste receptors and, another first, culturing olfactory tissues. He won prestigious awards in chemoreception. His wide range of interests apart from his own research included acting, music-making, art classes, voracious reading, politics, skiing, and working out. A Boston native, he attended Harvard College, then earned a DMD from its dental school and a PhD from NYU. He joined NU in 1964, teaching in the medical and dental schools and the department of neurobiology and physiology. [Obituary](#).

Edward F.X. Hughes, 80, a physician who became a professor of strategy at Kellogg, died January 23, 2022. He founded the university's Center for Health Services and Policy Research and directed it for 17 years. He also directed Kellogg's healthcare management program and founded the joint MD-MBA program. Ed helped develop curricula covering pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries. He was said to be the first physician to be tenured in a business school. In 2015–16, he was president of the faculty senate. Trained as a surgeon, Ed had degrees from Harvard's medical school and Columbia's school of public health. He was a recognized expert in healthcare systems, a popular teacher, and a mentor to countless students. [Obituary](#).



Tilde Sankovitch, 86, retired professor and former chair of French and Italian, died February 27, 2022. She also was active in the women's studies program (since renamed gender and sexuality studies), serving as its director in the 1990s. A Montaigne scholar and a specialist of the Renaissance, Tilde authored *French Women Writers and the Book: Myths of Access and Desire* (1993). Colleague Sylvie Romanowski said Tilde was "much beloved, a great teacher, and very engaged in the life of the department." Born in Belgium, Tilde earned her PhD in French literature at Northwestern. In retirement she lived with her husband, Tola, in New York City. She loved Central Park, especially the Conservatory Garden, where a bench bears words of her late

daughter Anne-Marie: “For who can end in despair, when there is such beauty in the world?” We will be publishing a reminiscence of Professor Sankovitch in our next issue. [Obituary](#).

Jeremiah Stamler, 102, the father of preventive cardiology, who transformed the public’s understanding of diet and heart health, passed away January 26, 2022. A charismatic and kind man, he was a force for truth who never backed down. During the 1970s, in what was controversial at the time, he emphasized risk factors such as cholesterol, blood pressure, diabetes, and smoking that contribute to heart attack risk. His 1997 Intersalt study, connecting sodium intake with high blood pressure, also faced pushback but now is part of standard health guidelines. He published 670 peer-reviewed papers and 22 books. Born in Brooklyn, Jerry attended Columbia, studied medicine at SUNY, served in World War II, and joined NU in 1958. In the 1960s, subpoenaed by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, he sued in a case that went to the Supreme Court—which led to the demise of the committee. [Obituary](#).



For NEO’s own tribute to Dr. Stamler, see [The Emeriti News, Summer 2020, p. 9–11](#).

THE EMERITI CALENDAR

Please visit the [NEO website’s Program of Events](#) for updates between newsletters and your email for invitations to upcoming events. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the NEO office at emeritus-org@northwestern.edu, (847) 467-0432.

Monday, March 28, 2022, 1p.m.–2p.m.

Executive Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 11:30a.m.

Luncheon. Speaker: [Nyree Zerega](#), Director of Program in Plant Biology and Conservation. Guild Lounge, Scott Hall, Evanston Campus. [Register by 3/31/22](#). Event will be available in-person and [Zoom](#) (Zoom to start at 12:30p.m. CDT).

Monday, April 25, 1p.m.–2p.m.

Executive Council Meeting

April 26 & May 3, 2022, 7p.m.–8:30p.m.

Spring Qtr. EPL-NEO Mini-course. Instructor: Prof. emer. [Jerry Goldman](#), Department of Political Science, on SCOTUS: Law and Politics. Offered by NEO in collaboration with Evanston Public Library. [Course description & Registration](#). Zoom only.

Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 11a.m.	NEO Tour of Block Museum exhibit - A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence, The Block Museum of Art , Evanston campus. NEO Tour Registration .
Monday, May 23, 2022, 1p.m.–2p.m.	Executive Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 5p.m.	Dinner. Speaker: Robert Gundlach , Prof. Dept of Linguistics; Faculty Associate, the Cook Family Writing Program.
August 1–3, 2022	Big Ten Retirees Association Conference , hosted by the NEO, Evanston Campus. See details here .

NEO OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2021–22

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VP/President-elect	Jeff Garrett (Libraries/German, 2021–22)
Secretary	Ken Seeskin (Philosophy, 2021–22)
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Councilors	Ronald Braeutigam (Economics, 2020–22) Barbara Deal (Pediatrics, 2020–22) Bernie Dobroski (Music, 2021–23) Mary Poole (Theatre, 2021–23) Jane Rankin (Comm Sciences & Disorders, 2020–22) Sandra L. Richards (Performance Studies, 2021–23)
Faculty Senate Representative	Rick Cohn (Pediatrics, continuing)
Provost’s Office Representative	Celina Flowers (Assistant Provost for Faculty, ex-officio, continuing)
Administrative Assistant	Gina Prokopeak (Provost’s Office, continuing)
Newsletter Editor	Jeff Garrett (Libraries/German, continuing)

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Our next issue (Summer 2022) will be published in mid-June, 2022.

Press deadline: Friday, June 10, 2022.