



University of Michigan Retirees Association

Volume 13, No. 4

April - May 2011

Social Hour Programs

April 14 – How We Make Blue Go. Richard Robben, MBA, Executive Director for Plant Operations. Take a look at the web site <www.plant.bf.umich.edu/director/> for information about the amazing scope and variety of services provided by Plant Operations, a unit consisting of 1500 people and 11 departments.

May 12 – Current Issues in Higher Education, Provost Philip Hanlon, Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs, Professor, LS&A Mathematics Department. Each week seems to bring new concerns facing higher education, from funding new buildings, to recruiting new faculty, to funding staff and retiree benefits.

The next UMRA Newsletter will appear in August.

The 2011 - 2012 UMRA Social Hour season will begin in September.

Inside

- Reports of the February and March Social Hour programs.
- The history of a fine old song with Michigan roots.
- A U-M retiree's experience teaching at the Community College.
- Taxes: they were difficult to handle in antiquity, too.

Save the Date

UMRA's annual Health Day will be April 26 at Weber's Inn, 8:30 to 4:30.

Programs will include talks on stroke, breathing, yoga, when to visit the Emergency Room, and more.

Benefits: Changes for Some; Not for Others

At the February UMRA Social Hour Richard Hirth, chair of the Committee on Retiree Health Benefits, announced that the committee's work indicates there will be no changes in payments and services for those already retired. However, he also predicted that by 2020 there will be a 50 percent increase in the number of U-M retirees -- from about 7000 now to nearly 11,000. That increase will require changes. Among those changes will be an increase in the age of retirement eligibility and declining participation on the part of the University.

The specifics of the report and change details for employees and retirees can be viewed at www.benefitsstewardship.umich.edu

There is also a video about the changes, available at the same site. For those who wish to speak with a benefits representative call 734-615-2000 or toll free at 866-647-7657.

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Social Hour Details

UMRA Social Hours are held most months during the academic year on second-Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5 PM. All U-M retirees and their guests are cordially invited to attend. The gatherings usually include light refreshments—coffee, sliced fruit, cookies, and soft drinks. Social Hour programs begin at 3:15 PM and continue until about 5:00 PM. Announcements about speakers and programs are made in this newsletter, in University Record *Events* notices, and at the UMRA web site <www.hr.umich.edu/umra>.

Meeting Location

Social Hour gatherings are held at the Clarion Hotel, 2900 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. Parking is plentiful, and easy access to the meeting room is gained by using the Ballroom entrance at the rear of the building. Handicap access is good. Other venues are used from time to time. Please check the meeting notices on Page 1 to find the latest information.

The University of Michigan Retirees Association Newsletter

G-250 Wolverine Tower, 3003 South State, Ann Arbor MI 48109

The Wolverine Tower building is located at the SE intersection of Eisenhower Blvd. and S. State St. Parking is available nearby.

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February Social Hour Report

Will It Run? That was the call when the construction of a World War II bomber plant was proposed in the early 1940s. It did run. It is running. And it intends to run in the future!

Designed in 1941 on the back of a paper placemat in a Southern California hotel, the history of the Willow Run Airport Bomber Plant was outlined in a power-point presentation by David Steiner and Tom Nagerson. The presentation brought back memories, kindled questions from the audience, and ventured into the formation of the Yankee Air Museum housed at the airport and the exciting volunteer opportunities that are available there.

Drawing on the expertise of Michigan's workforce, the bomber plant that straddled both Washtenaw and Wayne counties grew from a 1940 production of two planes a month to a wartime assembly line that put out one B-24 every 64 minutes. Under the mantle of the Ford Motor Company, 8,685 B-24s were produced from 1942 until the end of the war. The last bomber off the assembly line was named for Henry Ford. Then the airport became a hub for both passenger and freight flights for the Detroit area.

In 1981 enthusiasts formed the "Yankee Air Force" to preserve the history of this place and the planes it produced. Purchases and donations have allowed the acquisition of a number of aircraft researched and restored by dedicated volunteers. Unfortunately a hangar fire in 2004 resulted in the loss of some of the planes while others were rescued from the inferno by pushing them out by hand. Irreplaceable artifacts, photos and books were also lost in the fire.

Six years to the minute after the fire, the museum was reopened and it functions today as a history resource for the community. For more information about Willow Run Airport and the Yankee Air Museum and its public events, visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org.

*This Boeing B-17G Heavy Bomber (Yankee Lady)
at the Yankee Air Museum is available for flights.*



Report by Joanne Nesbit

Papers of '*I Love You Truly*' author at Special Collections Library

By Joanne Nesbit

It has become an anthem sung for decades at weddings across the country. Yet, Carrie Jacobs-Bond's sweet little 1901 melody and words were first published as one of the offerings of "Seven Songs," now on display in the U-M Special Collections Library.

"I Love You Truly" was written by the widow who, between the ages of 48 and 56, turned out 59 compositions and became one of the most revered and acclaimed composers of her time. The Wisconsin native spent the first seven years of her married life in Iron River, Michigan, but moved to Chicago with her young son after the accidental death of her physician husband. It was there that she rented rooms to university students and took odd jobs that included painting china. While painting, Jacobs-Bond would hum improvised tunes to which she would add verses. It wasn't long before she was painting title pages and publishing her own songs.

Her business grew and Jacobs-Bond moved to Hollywood. With California as her home base, she traveled the world by train, steamship and auto to receive accolades for her songs. She often visited friends in Detroit and in 1940 appeared at the Third Annual Cascades Festival in Jackson, a festival billed as the "Greatest Spectacle Ever Staged," with "10 gigantic stages, a cast of 1,000, a symphony orchestra, 50 Cascades singers, gorgeous costumes, dazzling lighting, and a gladiolus show." After the strenuous eight nights of the Festival, Jacobs-Bond visited the Battle Creek Sanitarium where for six days she rested "body and brain."

Of her climb to wealth and fame, Jacobs-Bond said, "I am glad I have been poor; being poor makes one more humane. But for poverty I may never have been able to write the songs which have brought success."

The U-M collection also includes hundreds of letters written by Jacobs-Bond to her friends, family and business manager. The Special Collections Library is on the seventh floor of the Hatcher Graduate Library.

PS: If you get caught without roses and chocolates on a special day, you can sing a few bars:

*I love you truly, truly dear,
Life with its sorrow, life with its tear
Fades into dreams when I feel you are near
For I love you truly, truly dear.
Ah! Love, 'tis something to feel your kind hand
Ah! Yes, 'tis something by your side to stand;
Gone is the sorrow, gone doubt and fear,
For you love me truly, truly dear.*

THOUGHTS ON RETIREMENT

Many people find that retirement isn't all it's cracked up to be. Many go back to work because they are bored or they don't have enough money. Since I retired from U-M Medical Center as a nurse auditor last November, I found myself back at work for neither of those reasons. It was a longtime happy relationship with my beloved Washtenaw Community College that drew me back to a part-time job.

For years I had been teaching at WCC on & off, while holding on to my full-time work at the University of Michigan. I had especially enjoyed a WCC relationship as I navigated through a program preparing Masters degree nurses to teach. As a graduate student, I worked along with a WCC teacher as she taught classroom theory and took students to the Ann Arbor VA hospital for clinical practice. After my graduation with a post-Masters nurse-educator certificate in 2009, I continued on as a clinical instructor with WCC. Now I am again enjoying another fine lead teacher at WCC, the students, the faculty, and the whole atmosphere of that college.

An added plus these days is that my husband, who is also retired, drives with me and takes elective courses while I teach. Then we meet in the parking lot and

drive home together.

A key factor in my returning to teach at WCC was the encouragement of the chairwoman of the nursing program, Gloria Velardie, who kept up a connection with me even when I was an inactive teacher. That pleasant link drew me back to the college. Gloria has been at the helm of the nursing program, guiding it through a number of expansions and changes.

The course I am teaching is called Health Assessment -- a class that introduces lay people to nursing by requiring them to use the technical language of medical care and to practice hands-on assessment of real patients. This helps students acquire important basic concepts of caring for the ill. I much enjoy reading the assigned chapters, doing homework, and practicing before class to refresh my ability. This all helps me stay in touch with my profession and brings me much satisfaction.

So if you are retired, if you like to interact with teachers and students, and if you are not pressed to make a lot of money, join with me in a part-time job in our public education system. Now that you have the time, extend yourself to students who are preparing to be our future workforce.

Ferial Rewoldt

OLD-TIMER STUFF !

Remember U-M in 1946-47? Perhaps a review of "*Michiganetiquette*" will spur memories of student life at that time. Published by the Michigan Union, this pamphlet is a guide to good social conduct. It provides guidelines for respect and consideration that will put you "on the road which leads to popularity."

Suggestions are given for attendance at several regular campus functions, how to make dates, the art of walking with a girl, knowing the house rules for undergraduate women, the art of drinking beer, and proper dress for meals.

A copy of *Michiganetiquette* can be found at the
Bentley Library, open Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday hours, 9a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday evening hours, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

Whether you're wrestling with a 1040, IT-40PNR, or CC-40, the annual ritual of paying taxes is no picnic. Nor is it new. Even folks from the second century had tax deadlines to meet. Sheets of papyrus and pottery shards held in the University of Michigan's Papyrus Collection reveal a number of similarities between taxes then and taxes now. The U-M collection is the largest in the Western Hemisphere.

Current tax forms can be filed via the mails or computer, but in ancient Egypt the computer was the tax roll. One such roll held in the U-M collection is 106 feet long and lists 600 adult males who paid taxes during an 11-month period in one tax year. The official tax collector had agents working in villages, going house-to-house collecting what was due on a vast array of taxes, including capital, trade, and land.

When confronted by the collector, the head of the household would hand over the money required, and, in return, would get a receipt on the spot. That receipt was often written on a pottery shard. The collector would just reach into the street, pick up a broken pottery piece and write the payer a receipt. There were cases where people either didn't pay or were in arrears, leading to their flight from the countryside to lose themselves in the more populous city of Alexandria. Emperors could and did decree that people not move from city to city or even neighborhood to neighborhood, thereby assuring accurate tax collection.

The tax agents returned to their headquarters each day to enter the collections into what amounted to a daybook. Taxes in ancient Egypt could be paid in cash or "in kind" depending on what was being taxed. As in today's tax program, there were exemptions to the general tax regulations. Some classes of people were exempt from paying certain taxes. No Roman citizen or physician had to pay a capital tax.

Keeping track of who lived where and how many in a household were to be taxed depended on the census report, a count taken every 14 years by reporters going house-to-house. If someone listed on the census was no longer a part of that household when the tax collector knocked, the agent came back to investigate, inquiring about death reports or new addresses.

At that time, taxes were based on the whole community and then broken down as to what each family and then each individual owed. Citizens 14 - 62 years old were expected to pay their share of the assessed tax. Family members had to pay for a missing citizen or furnish birth, death, or other records that would lead the collector to a person trying to evade paying his share. Census reports not only included the names of people in a household, their material goods and slaves, but also listed individuals' physical characteristics such as "long nose, dark skin" and the description and location of scars.

Current news from the Mid-East reminds us of social justice in this country and around the world. The U-M Library's *Labadie Collection*, the largest of the library's special collections, was established in 1911 when Joseph Labadie, a prominent Detroit anarchist, donated his library to U-M. While it is strongest in anarchist materials, the collection embraces a wide variety of social protest literature together with political views from the extreme left and right. It is worldwide in scope, with special strengths in civil liberties, socialism, communism, colonialism and imperialism, as well as American labor history through the 1930s, the I.W.W., the Spanish Civil War, sexual freedom, women's liberation, gay liberation and student protest movements.

The collection is located on the 7th floor of the Hatcher Graduate Library, in the Special Collections Library, Mon. – Fri., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. – noon. .

***Highlights of the Labadie Collection can be viewed at
www.lib.umich.edu/special-collections-library.***

ADDRESS CHANGE ?

PLEASE MAIL YOUR OLD ADDRESS AND THE
NEW ADDRESS TO THE UMRA OFFICE, G-250
WOLVERINE TOWER, ANN ARBOR, MI 48109
PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, AS WELL.

OR

SEND AN EMAIL WITH THE CHANGES TO <UMRA@UMICH.EDU>
WITH THE SUBJECT "CHANGE OF ADDRESS."

THANK YOU!

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