



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
**Professors Emeriti Club**

[emeriti.utah.edu](http://emeriti.utah.edu)

**Newsletter / No. 2 October 2023**

## Scholar-Activist to Speak at November Luncheon

***“Are We Too Late  
To Save  
Great Salt Lake?”***



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“The stakes are incredibly high, and I don’t know of any examples of success. I guess that means we’ll have to be the first.” BEN ABBOTT

**BEN ABBOTT** was born in Nashville, Tennessee and grew up in Orem, Utah. He got interested in science and nature from watching TV and mountain biking in the foothills of Mount Timpanogos. Near the end of his senior year at Orem High, he slipped on a pamphlet promoting the Quinney Scholarship at Utah State University and applied to the Watershed and Earth Systems Science program. During his B.S., he worked as an undergraduate researcher in northern Alaska, investigating how fish influence nutrient cycles in Arctic lakes. That led to his Ph.D. at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, where he studied permafrost climate feedbacks using interdisciplinary techniques to quantify how Arctic and Boreal ecosystems respond to climate change. After finishing his Ph.D. in 2014, he worked as a Marie Curie postdoctoral fellow at the French National Science Foundation (CNRS). While in western France, he studied the effects of agriculture and urbanization on aquatic and marine ecosystems.

Ben currently is an associate professor in the Environmental Science & Sustainability program at BYU. He works with a large team of creative and passionate students and postdoctoral researchers to understand and encourage sustainability and reciprocity among all members of the human family and all creation. Specifically, they use methods from ecosystem ecology, evolutionary biology, energy system modeling, and social science to understand and decrease environmental pollution, measure and mitigate the effects of climate change, and protect vulnerable human and nonhuman communities worldwide. Ben has been married to Rachel Gianni Abbott for twelve years, and they have four children, who take after them in their love of animals, TV, and biking. For more information, visit his blog, [Approximately Limitless](#).

***Luncheon will be held in the Saltair Room, **Tuesday, November 14** at noon.***

***Payment is due October 31. See the ordering link on the menu page.***

***There will be no Zoom coverage.***

## President's Message

### **HERTA TEITELBAUM**

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#### **Osher Celebrates 20 Years at the U in 2024**

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Utah began in 2004 as part of a growing network of learning communities designed especially for those "age 50 and better". Fred Esplin, then director of development and now an instructor for Osher, had a friendship with Mary Bitterman, director of the Bernard Osher Foundation. Lucky for us, Fred agreed to bring this wonderful program to Utah. To celebrate 20 years of reaping the rewards of these three visionaries, in 2024 Osher is planning a year of festivities, courses, special events, and distinguished guest speakers.

#### ***Oppenheimer: The Film, Plus***

To begin the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the UofU, Osher is holding a special event, *Oppenheimer: The Film, Plus*. *Oppenheimer* has received rave reviews and is sure to garner several Academy Award nominations. But the film is more than entertainment; it is good history. Colonel Steve Hall has crafted a morning/afternoon event that will discuss the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer and more. The two-hour morning session will cover the science of the atom bombs and the decisions on when, how, and where to use them. Then attendees will break for lunch. In the afternoon two-hour session, Steve will discuss J. Robert Oppenheimer himself, the film, the important players in Oppenheimer's professional and personal life, and the events that led to his tragic denouement. So see the film — Steve will not show clips as part of his lecture — and perhaps read the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Bird and Sherwin, *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*.

**Wednesday, November 15**

**9:30 AM-3:30 PM**

**Marriott Hotel Amphitheater Room, 480 Wakara Way,  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108**

**NOTE:** Fees include morning and afternoon lectures, a catered lunch, room rental, and a printed booklet of take-aways compiled by the instructor.

**Osher 941-001** Total per person: \$89

[https://continue.utah.edu/osher/class/osher\\_941\\_oppenheimer\\_the\\_film\\_plus](https://continue.utah.edu/osher/class/osher_941_oppenheimer_the_film_plus)

## Past President's Message

### **KEN JAMESON**

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The University of Utah is the newest member of the **Age-Friendly University Global Network**. Susan Olson has been working with the Executive Committee over the past year to support the University's application. Membership is granted to degree-granting institutions of higher education world-wide who endorse the Ten Principles of the Age-Friendly University. Many of its Ten Principles are directly relevant to retired faculty: e.g. #1, To encourage the participation of older adults in all the **core** activities of the University, including educational and research programs.

Please direct questions or comments to our Age-Friendly University contacts: Dr. Katarina Friberg Felsted, [Katarina.felsted@nurs.utah.edu](mailto:Katarina.felsted@nurs.utah.edu), and Dr. Jackie Eaton, [Jacqueline.eaton@nurs.utah.edu](mailto:Jacqueline.eaton@nurs.utah.edu).

We also are pleased that the Transition Committee continues to work very productively with the UIT staff. Of note is the agreement that **all emeriti have access to the full cloud-based Microsoft software suite**. There may be some implementation issues, but if you would like this access, go to: <https://o365cloud.utah.edu/> You will be asked for your unid and password. If you use Duo, you will be asked for another verification. Then you will have access to Outlook, Teams, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and OneNote in the cloud. We had hoped to get access to the Adobe Suite, but the University licenses do not include emeriti. Thanks to the UIT team for their efforts on our behalf.

The AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) Newsletter highlighted the Emeriti Club's "Grandparents Are In" initiative: [https://www.arohe.org/resources/EmailTemplates/AROHE%20Matters%202023-09/index\\_preview.html#Grandparents](https://www.arohe.org/resources/EmailTemplates/AROHE%20Matters%202023-09/index_preview.html#Grandparents)

That effort supports two of the Age-Friendly University principles:

4. To promote intergenerational learning in order to facilitate the reciprocal sharing of expertise between learners of all ages.

7. To increase the understanding of students of the longevity dividend and the increasing complexity and richness that aging brings to our society.

The Executive Committee will continue its work in correspondence with two other AFU Principles (9 and 10).

**NOTE: Clayton Norlen of UIT will be at the November luncheon to answer any questions you have about cloud software access.**

## Perfect Marriages

Two emeriti have pursued their passions at the Natural History Museum of Utah, forging marriages of expertise and public benefit

**Bill Gray** was a member of the Biochemistry Department, but when he retired in 1996, he wanted to take a different tack: photography. He focused on native flora, building a catalogue of plant images with descriptions that still is available on the Utah Native Plants Society website.

That new passion for photography led Gray to the Natural History Museum of Utah. He learned of the hiring of a new Curator of Botany, Mitch Power, who was leading an excursion identifying native plants in the Uinta Mountains and Bill joined him. Later, he approached Mitch and asked him if he could join Mitch on his field research studying core samples. The two clicked, especially when they fled to Gray's camper in the desert one summer day to escape sand fleas. It was 120° inside and they laughed at the situation, all while drinking black tea, Bill's favorite.

Later, Gray accompanied Mitch on his field research trying to determine the age of junipers. Ranchers and others maintained that junipers were invasive and young. It was difficult, though, to measure the age of junipers because they are so gnarled. Drawing on his work with digital photography and the use of Google Earth Pro to locate flora, Bill devised a camera system that could rotate, take exceedingly narrow segments of the tree rings and then stitch them together into a sharp, flat image where rings could be counted and age determined by measuring the minute distances between rings. Gray proved that junipers were much older and not invasive at that site.

"Bill calls himself a 'tinkerer' but he's really an engineer," Power says. "He devised and built the system. He did all the calculations (megapixels needed, mirror vs. no mirror camera; lighting).

"His attention to detail is remarkable," Power continues. "Bill will send me emails at 2:00 a.m. and say, 'I've got an idea!'"

Gray acknowledges that he doesn't think much about time now. "My way of working is to continually mull ideas in my head. I'm retired. Inspiration can come at any day of week."

Power says that Gray has become a recognized innovator in paleobotany. "Dendrochronologists have discovered Bill's camera and software technology and are blown away," Power says. "They want to have access and Bill, in turn, wants technology to be able to shared be with everyone. He is all about sharing."

Bill is mentoring an undergraduate student, too. She's testing his technology compared to traditional methods.

Power also notes that Bill's excitement is so infectious that Power has posted a sign in the lab: "Be Like Bill."

**Ray Gesteland** and his colleague John Atkins were talking when the topic of ribosomes came up. Both felt that the general public didn't know enough about the subject. So, they pitched an idea to Becky Menlove at the Natural History Museum of Utah, suggesting an exhibit.

Menlove caught the vision. Gesteland says, "She called our bluff." It was decided that Gesteland would pair with Tim Lee, Director of Exhibits, and develop a permanent exhibit that would update the aging "Genes Pod".

Lee is used to the interplay with scientists. "Tim was a quick learner," Gesteland says. "He asked good questions." They put together a team that included Dr. Janet Iwasa from Biochemistry, who takes complicated scientific issues and turns them into video presentations.

Gesteland was the content expert and provided the background that the museum didn't have. "We are always looking for expertise in content areas," Lee says. "Ray could tell us, 'Why should we care about ribosomes.'" Gesteland also was able to provide a network that enriched the development of the exhibit, including funding.

They began the work in 2019. Then COVID hit, sowing chaos. A lot of the work had to be done online at home. That extended the timeline to four years.

Lee says, "Ray caught the vision and saw science in a different way."

When asked what he got out of the interaction, Gesteland says, "What struck me was the necessary balance a museum must strike between scientific accuracy and something accessible to a museum crowd. A museum needs to speak to the five-year-old and their parents and grandparents as well as the experts. It's complicated work."

### Volunteering

Lee says, "I love our volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without them. They are part of our 'staff', broadly speaking. They help us meet our strategic goals. They help us do the work. They help us discover. They help us do science."

"When a faculty member retires," Lee continues, "It doesn't make them obsolete. Their passion doesn't end. They can be part of the community and tell their stories."

The museum is trying to bounce back from the pandemic. It only has 50% of the volunteers that it did before COVID and would love to bring that back to 100%. If you have a background in the sciences, especially, and would like your name to be placed on a roster of potential volunteers to the museum, send your name and area of expertise to [craig.denton@utah.edu](mailto:craig.denton@utah.edu).

# Hiking Group

A beautiful fall is in progress and the Hiking Group is out searching for color. The aspens appear to be two weeks late, so perhaps by the arrival of this newsletter there will be some color left. They will have a hard time competing with the maples which had a much earlier start. Any way you look it is beautiful, including a slight dusting of snow on Devils Castle. We have explored the Mormon Trail below Big Mountain Pass in East Canyon, Snake Creek Pass,

Donut Falls, and Twin Lakes Pass since the last newsletter. There is a sense of urgency that it could suddenly end and force us down to the foothills until it's time for our Yaktrax or snowshoes. So, hurry and join us. The main thing is to be safe with good poles and soles and the 10 essentials for the trail. Join us on our email list by contacting [Suzanne Stensaas@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:Suzanne.Stensaas@hsc.utah.edu) with your email, cell and land lines, address and department affiliation. Happy Trails!



**Descending from Grizzly Gulch**



**Autumn dress**



**Hiking Group makes its own fashion statement on hike to Donut Falls**

# MELDRUM THEATRE TOUR

See the new theatre before it opens to the public



**Emeritae: Marjorie Riches Gunn, Julia Kleinschmidt, and Michele Margetts in June 2022**

Did you know there is currently a new theatre under construction inside Einar Nielsen Fieldhouse as a building within a building? Delayed a year by pandemic supply chain issues, the opening of the new Meldrum Theatre is now scheduled provisionally for late November and certainly for early next spring when Pioneer Theatre Company will present *The Lehman Trilogy*. If you would like to see this 375-seat space shared by PTC

and the U Theatre Department before it is completed, tread the boards, tour front of house and behind the scenes, then mark your calendar for **Thursday, November 16, 2023**. A maximum of fourteen may tour at one time, due to hard hat availability, so we have two options. Please choose your tour time, either **2:00 pm** or **3:00 pm**.

With your Emeritus UCard you may park on the day in the Marriott Library lot. We will then meet at the west en-

trance to the Fieldhouse.

We will need an accurate count of those who wish to take our tour, so please follow this link to sign up online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6MRY83J>; or contact Michele Margetts by email at [1elizabethan@comcast.net](mailto:1elizabethan@comcast.net) or phone at **801-582-2806**; or fill out the reservation form on this page and send to Barbara Brown. Please do this **no later than Oct. 31**. Then come make the scene!

**Tour: New Meldrum Theatre At Einar Nielsen**  
**Thursday, November 16, 2023**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number wishing to do the tour \_\_\_\_\_ 2:00 pm \_\_\_\_\_ 3:00 pm \_\_\_\_\_ Either time is OK \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 31**

**Mail to: Barbara Brown, 1332 Dover Road, Salt Lake City UT 84108**

## In Memoriam

Betty Colleen Wullstein, D. June 9, 2023  
Spouse of Leroy (Chuck) Wullstein, Geography/Geo Sciences

If you learn of the death of an emeriti member or emeriti spouse, please contact [ryckluthi@msn.com](mailto:ryckluthi@msn.com) so that we can honor their passing. The date of death and college department would be helpful. The passing of other University friends and colleagues is noted on the Alumni Association web page at <https://bit.ly/35H63oF>



## Pioneer Memorial Theater

PLAY	TICKETS AVAILABLE	PREVIEW PERFORMANCE
<i>Christmas in Connecticut</i>	November 13, 2023	November 30, 2023
<i>Native Gardens</i>	December 18, 2023	January 11, 2024
<i>Bonnie &amp; Clyde</i>	February 5, 2024	February 22, 2024
<i>The Lehman Trilogy</i>	March 11, 2024	March 28, 2024
<i>Natasha, Pierre &amp; The Great Comet of 1812</i>	April 22, 2024	May 9, 2024

Emeriti and spouses are entitled to free tickets to Pioneer Memorial Theater preview performances. When tickets become available, members gather at the theater. All you need to do is show your Emeritus Card. Each card holder is

entitled to two tickets. Because there can be a rush, and to minimize wait time, card holders organize themselves. As soon as the box office opens, waiting card holders queue up according to when they arrived and receive tickets.

## Dis and Data

### Completion Scholarship

The first Completion Scholarship has been awarded, so it's time to refill the tank for the next recipient. You can make a contribution at:

<https://ustarter.utah.edu/o/university-of-utah-39/i/ustarter/s/professors-emeriti-club-completion-scholarship-pkyoryyqk>

If you'd like to see a detailed report on emeriti giving, go to: <https://emeriti.utah.edu/announcements/>

### Late Lunch Penalties

When you order your lunch on time (at least two weeks before the luncheon), you are guaranteed a seat and a lunch. If your lunch order comes in late, you are guaranteed a seat but not necessarily a lunch. Moreover, Chartwells assesses us a 50% surcharge on late lunch orders. Please help us avoid that unnecessary expense.

**The deadline for orders for the next luncheon is October 31.**

# Tuesday, November 14 Luncheon Menu

## ENTREES

Ham with brown sugar glaze  
or  
Stuffed portobello mushroom  
or  
Fruit plate with cottage cheese  
  
Apple cranberry salad

## ACCOMPANIMENTS

Roasted yams  
Brussels sprouts  
Rolls and fruit bread with butter  
Pumpkin pie  
Ice water with lemon  
Coffee and tea service

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## LUNCHEON RESERVATION and DUES PAYMENT FORM

**Voluntary Dues for 2023-24: \$12/Single, \$24/Couple**

**Luncheon payment due October 31. Attendees should be in seats by 12:00.**

**To pay by credit card (preferred): <https://umarket.utah.edu/um2/uuemeriticlub/product.php?product=1>**

(Please use the dropdown menu to select your meal choice. If you plan on bringing a spouse/guest, be sure to update the quantity box to "2", and fill out the info for your guest's lunch selection.)

### To pay by check:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ham \_\_\_\_\_ Mushroom plate \_\_\_\_\_ Fruit plate \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_ Ham \_\_\_\_\_ Mushroom plate \_\_\_\_\_ Fruit plate \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Ham \_\_\_\_\_ Mushroom plate \_\_\_\_\_ Fruit plate \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending @ \$20 each \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Members receiving newsletters by USPS are especially invited to pay dues to defray printing and mailing costs.**

Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here \_\_\_\_\_ if this is your first luncheon as a new member. (Hey! It's a free lunch!)

**Make out the check to *Professors Emeriti Club* and send to:**

**Barbara Brown  
1332 Dover Road  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108**