



The Emeriti News

A Quarterly Publication of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization (NEO)

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CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

[NEO President's Welcome](#)

[Emeriti In the News](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Karen Smilowitz Explores Busing Patterns](#)

[The Emeriti Traveler: New Zealand Adventure](#)

[Henry Binford -The Emergence of Modern Chicago](#)

[Richard Joseph Reimagines Africa](#)

[The Emeriti Bookshelf](#)

[A Behind-the-Scenes Look at One Book](#)

[In Memoriam](#)

[The Emeriti Calendar](#)

[NEO Officers & Council Members](#)

[Contact Us](#)

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

We now embark on a new year with high expectations, which are nonetheless for those of us who have made quite a few laps around the sun, tempered by lessons learned about how things actually work. For me, as this year's NEO President, I now have attained a fairly clear picture of things we can do, new things we ought to do, and the necessary "spadework" for things we should do now for the benefit of next year. My approach for NEO is to:

- Create programs that offer something for everyone.
- Apply the continuous improvement policy to [NEO's website](#).
- Open channels to engagement in NEO activities.
- Seize opportunities.

The NEO Executive Council* will be the agency to do all this.

[NEO Programming](#) for the next two quarters is detailed on [page 10](#) in this newsletter. Events are to be held at several different locations, and the presentations will continue to be on subjects that span many interests. Access to venues, including parking, is a concern. Costs for meals, services, and space remain a major factor in this planning. Expenses have risen faster than in past years (this is not news to anyone), but our allocation from the University hasn't changed. It's one of the on-going challenges.



Me, welcoming NEO members at our October lecture. Photo by Al Telser.

(continued on p. 2)

(President's Welcome continued from p. 1)

So, this year, I hope that you will visit our [website](#), take part in an [upcoming event](#) and connect with your colleagues and friends on the [Executive Council](#) and the [general membership](#). I have high expectations for all that we can do together.

*The [NEO Executive Council](#) 2023-24

Steve Carr (President), Kathy Rundell (President-Elect), Jeff Garrett (Past-President), Charlotte Crane (Secretary), Mary Dedinsky (Treasurer), Holly Clayson, Rick Cohn, Emile Okal, Steve Sawyer, Joe Schofer, Bob Tanz, and Victor Yampolsky.

-[Steve Carr](#), NEO President & Editor, [The Emeriti News](#)

EMERITI IN THE NEWS



[Richard Joseph](#), Emeritus John Evans Professor of International History and Politics, received the 2023 African Studies Association's [Distinguished Africanist Award](#) in December. On January 10th, Professor Joseph presented "Reimagining Africa: A Global and Collaborative Challenge" for the *Council on Foreign Relations African Strategic Opportunities Roundtable Series*. He presented this topic to NEO members in December. See the [event report](#) and recording link in this issue.

[S. Hollis \(Holly\) Clayson](#), Professor Emerita of Art History, Bergen Evans Professor Emerita in the Humanities, and NEO Executive Council Member, will be named the [2024 Distinguished Scholar](#) at the annual meeting of the College Art Association, the national professional organization for Art Historians and Artists. The AC2024 Distinguished Scholar Session will be held on Thursday, February 15, 4:30-6:30 p.m. CT at the Hilton Chicago. The event will be livestreamed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmV6AYccMrk>.



Photo by Jeff Garrett.

[Marie-Simone Pavlovich](#), Professor Emerita of French and Italian, talked about her work "Chat noir" (Black Cat) at Gallery OTR in Evanston on January 17. Her work was included in the [Evanston Made Group Show](#) "Photography & Mixed Media".

(continued on p. 3)

(Emeriti In The News continued from p. 2)



Librarian Emeritus and NEO's Immediate Past-President, Jeff Garrett, celebrated with historian and founder of [Shorefront Legacy Center](#), Dino Robinson, at Evanston Public Library's 150th Anniversary event this past October. The two collaborated to digitize a huge archive of *The Evanston Review* and other notable Evanston newspapers. [Evanston Roundtable article](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



Artist: Torkwase Dyson from "A Liquid Belonging" exhibit (New York 2023).

February 6 & 13

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. CT

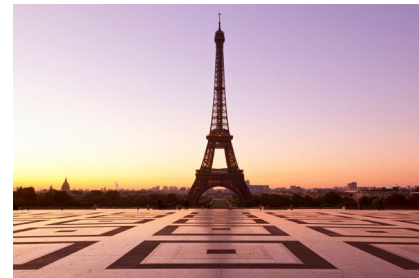
Black Abstract Art and Black Imaginations.

Mini-Course with Professor Emerita of Performance Studies, D. Soyini Madison. In-Person at Evanston Public Library and via Zoom. The Mini-Course lecture series is offered in partnership by Evanston Public Library and NEO. [Register](#).

March 14

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. CT

The Dark Side of the Eiffel Tower. Lunch lecture with Professor Emerita of Art History, Holly Clayson. Guild Lounge at Scott Hall. In-person and via Zoom. [Register for lunch](#).



Take advantage of [The Alumnae of Northwestern University's](#) Continuing Education programs, featuring many NEO member presenters this winter and spring. Explore the [Course Brochure](#).

[The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education](#) is hosting a webinar series this winter—*Reimagining Retirement: Exploring Your Life Plan*. [Learn more or register](#).



KAREN SMILOWITZ ON BUSING PATTERNS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT DESIGN IN EVANSTON

Karen Smilowitz is James N. and Margie M. Krebs Professor of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences in our McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science and Professor of Operations, Kellogg School of Management. Her work is on humanitarian logistics, which opens opportunities and challenges of introducing operational flexibility into logistics systems. On October 11, Professor Smilowitz shared her work with NEO members during an in-person breakfast lecture and via live Zoom.

About eight, or so, years ago, Professor Smilowitz and coworkers, Aysu Ozel and Lila K. S. Goldstein, became engaged in a research program that addressed inequities in the Evanston/Skokie Community Consolidated School District 65. The solution District 65 had applied, as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court school integration decisions of the 1950s, was to close the one neighborhood school where most African American youngsters had attended and distribute them all via busing to other schools. Some students from majority groups, at that time, also got bused to achieve enrollment balance for all schools. Over time, however, tolerance of the undesirable consequences of this busing solution began to wear thin, and pressure to ameliorate them continued to rise.

Lines of action began to converge on two schemes: improve things, if possible, by incremental modifications of the busing scheme, or restore a neighborhood elementary school in central Evanston. The myriad of factors to consider, and the interactions of making changes to one of them on other operating factors, make for a circumstance where operations research, of the kind Professor Smilowitz does, can make valuable contributions. You can say this is a way to evaluate how much bang for the buck might be derived when variables in this picture are changed...but you don't actually need to put such changes in place in order to see if they are worthwhile. That's the pay-off that is realized by this mathematical modeling.

Comparing experiences in other progressive communities around the country with Evanston's allowed some modeling to be done, but the results were underwhelming, especially when it came to student learning outcomes (and thereby educational equity). The D65 School Board was considering constructing a new, from scratch, elementary school, and key questions were where should it be built and what the revised attendance boundaries for district schools should be. Knowing the number of students involved and their actual places of residence is a key input. It is necessary to take into account the locations of the middle schools to which the elementary schools send graduates. Expanded student services, when compared with a half-century ago, enters into this mix, and much more.

Then there's the whole matter of producing results from which meaningful interpretation and decisions can be made. This involves walking the tightrope between model complexity that includes the many interconnected components of school district design and model simplicity for the sake of transparency, community adoption, and practicality. If this supporting modeling work is done well, then school authorities and civic leaders can make investments from which everybody benefits. Here in Evanston, some aspects of proposed school changes are still under discussion, and it was fascinating to hear how work by Dr. Smilowitz and her team had contributed to this important project.

-Steve Carr

THE EMERITI TRAVELER

NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE, JUST IN TIME

My wife, Sharyn, and I traveled to New Zealand in February 2020 on a 22 day long, pre-arranged small group tour of the larger, but less populated, South Island. We chose to fly from San Francisco to Auckland, a mere 13.5-hour flight rather than non-stop from O'Hare, a 17-hour ordeal. Our entire group was 6 people, plus our private tour guide who drove the Mercedes touring van.

Our first stop was in Dunedin, and it was on the day New Zealanders celebrate the anniversary of the treaty the British settlers and Māori natives signed back in 1840. There were festivities, parades, and public dancing on display.

We took a Wright Brothers-like plane to Stewart Island, off the southern coast, and saw beautiful birds and unusual flora and fed hungry albatross. We traveled to Queenstown, a bustling, lively city on Lake Wakatipu. We took a more modern propeller plane to Milford Sound where we boarded a boat for a 3-hour ride surrounded by 10,000-foot cliffs on both sides and numerous waterfalls. It was just plain gorgeous.



*Rick and Sharyn enjoying the view.
Photo by Rick Cohn.*



Milford Sound. Photo by Rick Cohn.

Onward to Arthur's Pass where we hiked for miles in the wilderness, then to Nelson, in wine country where we sampled the local products. We took kayak rides in Abel Tasman Park into the Pacific Ocean and then hiked in the park where no cars are allowed.

We stayed at a hotel at the base of Mount Cook, the highest point in New Zealand, and we took a motorboat ride on a nearby glacier.

New Zealanders are very friendly, we always felt safe, and we even understood most of their brand of English. We quickly learned that tipping in restaurants and taxis is frowned upon as they feel they are hosting us and tourism is the country's main economy.

We highly recommend a trip to this beautiful country and suggest that February is the perfect time to visit since it is their summer and the weather is beautiful. We did not visit Australia, a 1200-mile trip to the west.

We returned to the United States and arrived 6 hours earlier than we departed from New Zealand, thanks to the International Date Line. We came back on March 1, 2020, just as a newly arrived illness named Covid-19 started.

-Rick Cohn

HENRY BINFORD ON “THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN CHICAGO”

NEO, with close to [700 members](#), has a very deep bench when it comes to expertise on most any topic. So, when Professor Emeritus [Carl Smith](#) came down with Covid just days before the first session of our fall mini-course on Chicago history, organizer Professor Emerita [Michal Ginsburg](#) turned immediately to our other expert on the history of Chicago, Professor Emeritus [Henry Binford](#). With hardly any time to prepare, Binford stepped in for both sessions, leaving the 140 participants—both in the room and on Zoom—both edified and well entertained.



Professor emeritus Henry Binford lecturing at Evanston Public Library on October 25. Photo by Jeff Garrett.

In addition to knowing his Chicago history and culture, Binford knows a lot about the Midwest’s most important city *before* Chicago’s rise, namely: Cincinnati. 19th-century Cincinnati was the topic of his most recent book, [From Improvement to City Planning: Spatial Management in Cincinnati from the Early Republic through the Civil War Decade](#) (Temple, 2021). This allowed him to offer a very special perspective on what made Chicago unique in the last half of the 1800s. On the eve of the Civil War, Chicago had just 112,000 inhabitants compared to Cincinnati’s 188,000,

but just 20 years later, in 1880, despite its unlikely (marshy) location and the devastating fire of 1871, Chicago’s population had quadrupled to over half a million, making it twice as large as its next-largest regional rival. Binford described the great importance of the waves of immigrants flocking to Chicago seeking opportunity—and finding it. He summarized the drivers of Chicago’s meteoric rise as: technology; organization; immigrant labor; and venture capital.

The second session, on November 1, dealt in detail with social issues under the rubric “Progressive and Unprogressive Chicago.” Professor Binford compared the “two Chicagos” that grew up in late 1800s and the early 1900s: the misery of the immigrant communities of the south and west sides—versus the wealth and burgeoning commerce of the downtown and the shoreside communities along Lake Shore Drive. Conflict was inevitable—and it came, starting with the so-called Battle of the Viaduct in 1877, but lasting decades. Although racism was already on the rise in Chicago—as elsewhere in the country—in the late 19th century, the First Great Migration of African Americans coming to Chicago aggravated these sentiments. In the summer of 1919, Binford explained, there occurred an explosion of racial violence, leading to hundreds of injuries and the deaths of dozens—many of them recent Army veterans—during three days of pogrom-like rioting following an incident at a (segregated) public beach on 31st Street. Binford concluded his remarks by highlighting several prominent African Americans in Chicago of the years before and since those riots, among them the journalist and civil rights advocate [Ida B. Wells](#) (1862–1931).



Full house! With many more attending via Zoom. Photo by Jeff Garrett.

Both mini-course sessions can be viewed at no charge on the [Evanston Public Library YouTube channel](#).

-Jeff Garrett

RICHARD JOSEPH REIMAGINES AFRICA

On January 7, the *New York Times* featured a five-page special report on the development of a new African consciousness among young artists. NEO members and guests were able to explore the future of the African experience a month earlier, when Richard Joseph presented a lunchtime lecture to an in-person and remote audience on December 8. Joseph is John Evans Professor Emeritus of International History and Politics. He also is a former Director of the Program in African Studies and was the founding director of the African Governance Program at the Carter Center, among his many achievements. The week before his NEO talk, he was honored by the African Studies Association with its [Distinguished Africanist Award](#).



Professor Emeritus Joseph and Dean of Libraries Xuemao Wang at the Dec. 8 lecture.

Professor Joseph began his talk by distinguishing between “African Studies” and “studies of Africa.” The former is a disciplinary and institutional unit; the latter reflects the fact that scholars in many disciplines, including the arts and humanities, increasingly bring an African focus to their work. In this, they give expression to the youthfulness of the continent. Professor Joseph shared the projections that, by 2050, Africa will have 25% of the world’s population and that the median age will be only 19, younger than the rest of the world. These facts sometimes are cited as sources of optimism for the future, but Joseph finds that view justified only if the erosion of states and institutions is reversed during that period. To the contrary, he believes these trends are continuing apace, creating paradoxes of modernization.

To address these paradoxes, Professor Joseph maintained, is a global and collaborative challenge. He offered a few examples. While the cycle of violence, with its futility and horror, is widespread, several nations have managed to avoid it; what can be learned from their experience? Why in Nigeria, one of the wealthiest African nations, do 13 million children lack any formal education; what can be done to provide universal access to knowledge and learning? What explains the differences between those who succeed in escaping Africa by means of the “Mediterranean middle passage” and those who do not? How can the fragility of African states be countered, especially when a multiplicity of external states is involved – less the traditional European states but more China, Russia, and the Gulf states? To expand knowledge and create solutions will require the involvement of all disciplines and the development of cooperative learning systems focused on education, enterprise, efficacy, and equity. Joseph offered as an example his “Arima project,” combining archives, books, chronicles, and dialogues.

If he were to replay his career at Northwestern, Professor Joseph concluded, he would go about it in a different way – not by heading an institutionalized program in African Studies but by heading an institution-wide initiative to stimulate work on Africa, perhaps a fund that could support collaborative ventures by scholars in many disciplines.

[View “Reimagining Africa: A Global and Collaborative Challenge” NEO lecture.](#)

-David Zarefsky

THE EMERITI BOOKSHELF

This column draws attention to recent books and articles published or reviewed by Northwestern emeriti. Readers are encouraged to send title information to the [editor](#) to be considered for inclusion. You do not need to be the author to suggest a title. Feel free to inform on your friends and colleagues!



[S. Hollis Clayson](#) (author), [“Quite Astonishing Fidelity”?: Verisimilitude and Obstruction in Jacques Tissot’s Thames Pictures.”](#) *Getty Research Journal*, no. 18 (August 2023), pgs. 63-82.

[S. Hollis Clayson](#) (author), [“Van Gogh and the Avant-Garde: The Modern Landscape”](#). *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century Visual Culture*, Vol. 22, Issue 2 (Autumn 2023).

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE ONE BOOK, ONE NORTHWESTERN PROGRAM

To quote from the program’s website, “One Book, One Northwestern (OBON) is a community-wide reading program hosted by the Office of the President. It aims to engage the campus in a common conversation centered on a carefully-chosen, thought-provoking book. It began in 2005 for students in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and has since evolved into a community-wide program involving students, faculty and staff from all majors and departments.” First-year undergraduate and transfer students are sent a copy of the selected book early in the summer before they matriculate.

I am providing this little write-up because I have been involved in it for almost 20 years. Indeed, eight years ago I was the Faculty Chair for the program year for which the selected book was by Nate Silver, *The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail--but Some Don't*. It was fun to be Mr. Silver’s shepherd-for-a-day and to pick his brain about the upcoming Clinton-Trump election. Chief among my ongoing OBON activities is membership on the OBON Selection Committee.

Here’s how it all works. A campus-wide solicitation is made in early Fall Quarter requesting titles we should consider. This produces a list of about 100 unique entries. Then a committee of students, faculty, and staff from across all disciplines and careers culls this list to less than 10 titles. Copies of each candidate book are given to each member of this selection committee, and they all are read by each of us, mostly over Winter Break. A final decision session is held in late January from which a very short list of finalists is forwarded to the University President for the final decision.

(continued on p. 9)

(One Book, One Northwestern continued from p. 8)

This year, we had an interesting development, and it leads to a reading recommendation for NEO members. Sadly, just as opinions were rising for the book [The Power of Language: How the Codes We Use to Think, Speak, and Live Transform Our Minds](#) (Dutton, Penguin Random House LLC, 2023), it was brought to our attention that because its author, Professor Viorica Marian, is a long-time faculty member in our School of Communication, the book is technically disqualified from being the OBON selection. This provides, though, the opportunity to shine a spotlight on yet another great book from Northwestern faculty. -[Steve Carr](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Column Editor [George Harmon](#)

Note: We list In Memoriam in alphabetical order, and we publish them each quarter as we learn of the news. Please keep us informed of such events and don't be shy about adding your own observations about our beloved emeriti.



David Bishop, 86 of Glenview, University Librarian from 1992 to 2006, passed away peacefully Nov. 28, 2023. He oversaw multiple renovations in the libraries, including creation of the Plaza Café and the Information Commons, a \$30 million increase in endowment, and vast expansion of digital resources. After retirement, he was acting director of the NU Press for two years. David earned a degree in music education and string bass performance from the Eastman School of Music and then played in the U.S. Air Force Orchestra while studying for a library science degree from The Catholic University of America. Prior to joining Northwestern, he was University Librarian at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, director of libraries at the University of Georgia, and assistant director for technical services at the University of Chicago. Throughout his career, he served on governing boards of many library organizations. [Obituary](#).



Cassius T. Ionescu-Tulcea, 97, a mathematics professor specializing in probability theory, statistics and mathematical analysis, died in Chicago March 6, 2021. The Ionescu-Tulcea theorem is important to time-discrete stochastic processes. He also did research on lifting theory, mathematical game theory, and mathematical economics. He co-authored a book on casino gambling, and several textbooks on mathematics, and also wrote a 1981 book on casino dice games, and gambling systems, and a 1982 book on casino blackjack. Cassius received his education at the University of Bucharest, and became a faculty member there. In 1957 he entered the United States to work as a research associate and visiting lecturer at Yale, where he received a doctorate. He moved on to Penn and then to Champaign before joining Northwestern in 1966. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassius_Ionescu-Tulcea.

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 need assistance, please contact the NEO office—emeritus-org@northwestern.edu, (847) 467-0432.

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|---|--|
| Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CST | Wtr Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 1. Professor Emerita D. Soyini Madison presents “Black Abstract Art and Black Imaginations”. In-person and Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main. Register . |
| Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CST | Wtr Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 2. Professor Emerita D. Soyini Madison presents “Black Abstract Art and Black Imaginations”. In-person and Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main. Register . |
| Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CST | Executive Council Meeting |
| Thursday, March 14, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CDT | Lecture and Lunch. Professor Emerita S. Hollis Clayson presents “The Dark Side of the Eiffel Tower”. Guild Lounge at Scott Hall, Evanston Campus and Zoom. Register for lunch . |
| Wednesday, March 27, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT | Executive Council Meeting |
| Monday, April 8, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. CDT | Music presentation at the organ and lunch with Director Stephen Alltop . Music in Alice Millar Chapel followed by lunch in Parkes room, located down the hall from the Chapel, Evanston Campus. Register . |
| Thursday, April 18, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CDT | Spring Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 1. Professor Emeritus Peter Hayes presents “Misconceptions about the Holocaust”. In-person and Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main. |

(continued on p. 11)

(The Emeriti Calendar, continued from p. 10)

Thursday, April 25, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CDT	Spring Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 2. Professor Emeritus Peter Hayes presents “Misconceptions about the Holocaust”. In-person and Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main.
Wednesday, May 1, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT	Executive Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. CDT	“Evanston & The History of the Automobile”. In-person at Double Clutch Brewing Co, 2121 Ashland Ave, Evanston. Enjoy history and appetizers. In-Person event.
Tuesday, June 4, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CDT	Spring Business Meeting & New Emeriti Welcome. Guild Lounge at Scott Hall, Evanston Campus.
Wednesday, June 26, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT	Executive Council Meeting

NEO OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2023–24

President	Steve Carr (Materials Science & Engineering)
VP/President-elect	Kathy Rundell (Microbiology-Immunology)
Secretary	Charlotte Crane (Law)
Treasurer	Mary Dedinsky (Medill)
Immediate Past President	Jeff Garrett (Libraries/German)
Councilors	Holly Clayson (Art History)
	Emile Okal (Earth & Planetary Sciences)
	Stephen Sawyer (Law)
	Joseph Schofer (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

(continued on p. 12)

(NEO Officers & Exec. Council continued from p. 11)

	Robert Tanz (Pediatrics)
	Victor Yampolsky (Music Performance)
Faculty Senate Representative	Rick Cohn (Pediatrics)
Provost's Office Representative	Celina Flowers (Asst. Provost for Faculty, ex-officio)
NEO Administrative Assistant	Gina Prokopeak (Provost's Office)
Newsletter Editor	Steve Carr (Materials Science & Engineering)

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The Emeriti News is published four times per year (fall, winter, spring, and summer) for the emeritae/emeraliti of Northwestern University and other interested parties.

Our engaged [editorial squad](#) consists of [Steve Carr](#), [Holly Clayson](#), [Mary Dedinsky](#), [George Harmon](#), [Joan Linsenmeier](#), [Kathy Rundell](#), [Al Telser](#), [David Zarefsky](#) and staff member, [Gina Prokopeak](#).

Our next issue (Spring 2024) will be published in March.

Press deadline: March 15, 2024
