



# MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

January 2024

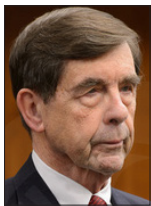
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### UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## MSU retiree Ron Flinn to share history of MSU campus facilities at Jan. 8 meeting

Ron Flinn, our speaker on Jan. 8, has written a book on the history of MSU campus facilities from 1939 to the present, a period of dramatic growth and change. Flinn began



Ron Flinn

working for Building and Utilities as a student employee when he arrived at MSU in Sep-

tember 1957. He became a full-time employee upon his graduation in 1960.

He has been involved with all facility activities including construction, maintenance and demolition from 1957 through 2014, from quonset huts to construction of the FRIB.

During his career he moved from student engineer to Vice President for Strategic Infrastructure

Please see FLINN on page 3

**When** Monday, Jan. 8, 2024

**Time** 2 p.m., coffee at 1:30 p.m.

**Where** Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane OR join the Zoom: See E-Notice for sign in info or visit <https://retirees.msu.edu>.

## Join the Lunch Bunch at Brody Hall Jan. 12

We are excited to let you know that our new initiative of having a monthly lunch at Brody Hall is going well. There is no program at these events. This is just time to meet and socialize with your friends and meet some new ones. Plan to attend and invite your friends as well. Luncheons are held on the second Friday of the month at MSU Brody Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### Purchasing your meal

Meals can be purchased in advance for a discounted price at EatAtState.msu.edu or in person. Also daily menus are available on the EatAtState.msu.edu website. Prices at the door, Breakfast: \$9, Lunch or Dinner: \$13 plus sales tax. Debit & Credit cards accepted. If purchased in advance on the website, \$9 per meal plus sales tax, 10 meal minimum purchase.

Purchased meals on the EatAtState.msu.edu website are placed on your MSU ID card. If you need an MSU Retiree ID card, you can get one at the MSU ID Office located in the MSU International Center.



### Eat at State!

COME TO LUNCH! Lunch outings at Brody Cafeteria are becoming popular. Offered every second Friday of the month, these luncheons are very informal. No agenda, just a relaxing time to chat with other retirees. And it's fun to look for the perfect lunch because there are so many choices! Purchase a meal plan at [eatatstate.msu.edu](http://eatatstate.msu.edu) for a discount or pay at the entry. Retirees are there between 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The next scheduled lunch is Jan. 12.

### Location of the luncheon

The Brody Hall Cafeteria is located on the second floor. An elevator is located near the front entrance that will take you up to the cafeteria. Stairs are also available.

### Parking

Your MSU Retiree Parking Permit allows you to park on campus anywhere an MSU Employee Parking Permit is allowed to park.

If you need an MSU Retiree Parking Permit, you can order one for Free on the MSU Parking Office website at <https://parking.msu.edu/>.

From the menu at the top of the page, select "Permits" and "Retiree." Follow the instructions to order your permit. Note: You will need to know your MSU NetId and password. If you do not know your MSU NetId and password, contact MSU IT Services Help Desk at 844-678-6200 or 517-432-6200.

Parking is available at Jenison Field House with your MSU Retiree Parking permit or by Pay-By-Plate. Kellogg Center parking ramp is now Pay-By-Plate.

# MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jacqueline Babcock

### Happy New Year! Welcome to 2024!

MSURA continues to celebrate 75 years as an organization and we hope you will continue to join us in the celebration. Monthly speakers continue January – April with a variety of topics. Brody lunches are the second Friday of each month at 11:30. Add something special to your day and tour the RE Olds Museum in February before attending the Brody lunch. There will be much to talk about. MSURA has arranged for another bus trip in April and in May we will culminate our celebration year with our annual luncheon. Watch the newsletter and e-notices for details.

Thank you to those who donated with gifts and time to assist in MSURA's support of a family through MSU SafePlace and thank you to Bill Anderson who headed up this effort. You made a difference in a family's holiday. We take pride in continuing to be a part of the MSU community.

If you would like to help the MSURA board in a small way, we need two or three people who would be willing to help send out materials on occasion to recent retirees. Please email me if you are interested in assisting with this outreach project. (Thank you!)

# MSURA NEEDS YOU

We are looking for volunteers to help in various organizational roles. We're not asking you to put in 20 hours a week or anything — just to help out when we need an extra hand or two. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jacqie Babcock at [jbabcock@msu.edu](mailto:jbabcock@msu.edu) or call her at 517-282-6861. MSURA is an all volunteer organization and we need volunteers. Thank you.



Tuesday, May 7 is the annual luncheon. Stay tuned for more info as the date draws closer.

## UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

### FLINN, cont. from page 1

Planning and Facilities and pulled together most of MSU's facility responsibilities.

Attendance at this event is in-person or virtual using Zoom. Meeting will be held at the MSU Federal Credit Union Farm Lane & Mt Hope branch Community room. Coffee at 1:30 p.m., and presentation will start at 2 p.m.

### State Capitol historian to speak at Feb. 12 membership meeting

Have you ever looked up from the Michigan State Capitol rotunda to see the stars in the dome? What other artwork and their stories are hiding in the Michigan State Capitol?

Valerie Marvin, historian and curator for the Michigan State Capitol Commission, will present to us some of the artists and their stories when she speaks to retirees at the membership meeting on Monday, Feb. 12.



Valerie Marvin

Marvin also serves as the president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University, where she received a Master's Degree in Historic Preservation. She and her husband, David, live in a historic home in downtown Lansing.

Attendance at this event is in-person or virtual using Zoom. Meeting will be held at the MSU Federal Credit Union Farm Lane & Mt Hope branch Community room. Coffee at 1:30 p.m., and presentation will start at 2 p.m.

**When** Monday, Feb. 12, 2024

**Time** 2 p.m., coffee at 1:30 p.m.

**Where** Community Room, MSUFCU Branch, Mt. Hope & Farm Lane OR join the Zoom: See E-Notice for sign in info or visit <https://retirees.msu.edu>.

## In Memoriam



The Spartan Senior Newsletter prints in each issue of the newsletter the names of MSU retirees who have recently died. In publishing this notice to mark their passing, we honor them for their contributions to improve MSU and the Greater Lansing community.

Lillian Arganian	11/3/23
Ferman Badgley	10/4/23
Helen J. Cannon	10/17/23
Ching-Chung Chou	11/4/23
Robert Clark	10/28/23
Bruce P. Coleman	9/28/23
Mona J. Ellard	8/13/23
Mary A. Erbele	11/9/23
Sally Ann Harris	10/4/23
Robert Hook	11/5/23
Jane R. Johnson	10/16/23
Ralph Kron	11/10/23
Ann S. Silverman	10/23/23
Guenter Adam Stork	11/15/23
Catherine Merta Vaughn	10/19/23
Sally M. Vescolani	11/9/23
Patricia S. Walsh	11/2/23
Shirley Faye Wood	11/11/23
Brooke Ann Woodman	10/24/23

## Support our sponsors

Please support our sponsors. They do a lot to help us defray the cost of events, newsletters and administrative expenses. They've also allowed us to give an extra \$2,500 Student Scholarship each of the past five years.



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# Empowering Spartan families through a fourth scholarship

The success of our scholarship program has been a testament to the generosity of Spartan retirees and friends.

## HOW TO DONATE TO THE MSURA ENDOWED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

If you're interested in giving to the MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship Fund, here are two ways do so.

### Mail

Make checks payable to Michigan State University with MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship written in the memo line.

Mail to:

University Advancement  
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824

### Online

- Go to <https://givingto.msu.edu/gift/>
- Type in "MSURA Endowed Scholarship Fund" for Areas to Support.
- Click on "Add to Cart."
- Enter any gift amount you wish.
- Click on "Proceed to Checkout."
- Complete donation.

As we stride forward in our mission to illuminate the educational paths of Spartan students, the Michigan State University Retirees Association (MSURA) is calling on its community to contribute to the endowment fund. With an already impressive endowment of \$191,394.16 as of Nov. 30, 2023, MSURA has made a substantial impact on students' lives, awarding 23 scholarships to date.

However, our journey doesn't end here — MSURA is committed to endowing a fourth scholarship before our three-year fundraising effort concludes in Spring 2024.

The success of our scholarship program has been a testament to the generosity of Spartan retirees and friends. To continue this legacy of support, we invite you to contribute to the MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship Fund.

Your donation will play a crucial role in ensuring that more students have the opportunity to pursue higher education at MSU. Every dollar brings us closer to our goal of endowing another scholarship, creating lasting impacts for generations to come.

We also want to remind retirees to encourage their eligible students to apply for the MSURA scholarships for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year. These scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, are specifically reserved for the children or grandchildren of MSU retirees or current MSU employees. It's a

chance for our Spartan families to benefit from the support of the MSURA community.

At MSURA, we believe in a fair and transparent selection process. We collaborate closely with the MSU Admissions Office to identify eligible candidates, usually around 20 students who apply for the scholarship. These candidates are then requested to fill out a short questionnaire that provides valuable insights into their qualifications based on our selection criteria.

Our selection committee, comprised of six to ten dedicated MSURA members, thoroughly review the applications.

Currently, the requirements are deliberately kept minimal to ensure accessibility. Eligible candidates must be incoming or currently enrolled students with a minimum 3.0 GPA, demonstrating financial need through the FAFSA or reliance on student loans. Preference is given to those with family ties to MSU employees or retirees, coupled with a commitment to leadership through community service, engagement or extracurricular activities.

Your support in both contributing to the endowment fund and encouraging eligible students to apply is instrumental in shaping the future of deserving Spartan scholars. To donate to the MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship Fund, please follow the instructions in our previous articles or visit the MSURA website at [retirees.msu.edu](https://retirees.msu.edu). Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

## Save the date for these future MSURA events

### R.E. Olds Museum



See this 1953 Nascar at the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum.

Join the MSURA for a guided tour of the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum on **Feb. 9, 2024**, at 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$7 and payable upon entry to the museum. The museum is located at 240 Museum Dr., Lansing. Parking is available in a gated lot behind the Museum and the gate will be open for our group to park for free. After the tour, join MSURA members for lunch at Brody Cafeteria. (For more info, see page 1 article about lunch).

RSVP to Chris DeFouw at [defouw@msu.edu](mailto:defouw@msu.edu) by Jan. 29 for the guided tour and to advise if you will be attending lunch.

### Day trip to Ford Museum, Meijer Gardens



Travel with MSURA to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum and Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids on Wednesday, **April 10, 2024**. Details and the registration form will appear in the February-March newsletter.

## We're out and about



About 25 MSURA folks attended "Murder for Two: Holiday Edition" on Dec. 2, at the Williamston Theatre. Rob Roznowski, professor and head of acting and directing in the MSU Department of Theatre and director of the show gave a talk afterwards. Most of the group headed to Zynda's for dinner afterwards.



The travel group met at Grand Traverse Pie Company in early December. Laurena Hoffmeyer has recently become the leader of this special interest group. Al LeBlanc had been in charge for several years, and we thank him for his dedication to the group. Pictured here from left to right: Rick Vogt, Kriss Ostrom, Laurena Hoffmeyer, Angela Brown, Kate Wight, Al LeBlanc and Helen LaBlanc. If you are interested in attending a meeting, please email Laurena at [hoffmey3@msu.edu](mailto:hoffmey3@msu.edu) and she will put you on the notification list.

## B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Buddy)

Starting at the first membership meeting of 2024, (Monday, Jan. 8) and continuing through April, if you bring an MSU retiree with you who has never been to an MSURA meeting, you AND your guest will receive a \$5 gift card to Biggby. We're trying to reach out to those who are not familiar with MSURA, and this is a great way to bring more retirees into the MSURA fold. Just let the greeter at the door know you have a guest with you. And thanks.

# Thank you to all who helped a family's wish list become reality

Retirees were very generous this holiday season as they helped to make one family's Christmas a very happy one.

Bill Anderson spearheaded the movement to adopt a family through MSU Safe Place. The family consists of a mother and her five children, all under the age of 12.

Nearly everything on the wish list was purchased for the family, and some retirees provided gift cards. The MSURA office was filled to the brim with toys and children's clothing.

The MSU Safe Place is a program that addresses domestic violence within our MSU community. Established in 2004, Safe Place provides shelter, counseling, and safety to domestic violence survivors and their families. They are located on the MSU campus and serve students, faculty, staff, and their spouses/partners.

Many thanks to those who donated and those who wrapped gifts. If only we could be there to watch them get opened!



Rebecca Henry, Bill Anderson, Rick Vogt, Kate Wight, MSU retirees, and Alyssa Baumann from Safe Place helped to load the gifts into the vehicle that was whisking the gifts away.

## H Addressing the needs of your community

### Humana is focused on finding solutions to help MSU members achieve their best health

Around 60% of health is impacted by our social factors, environmental conditions and lifestyle behaviors.

Humana is pleased to offer **Community Navigator**, a no-cost tool that connects MSU retirees with resources they may need to improve their health and well-being, including:

- Food assistance
- Loneliness resources
- Housing support
- Public transportation
- Legal resources
- and much more

At Humana, we strive to understand the unique circumstances and needs of MSU retirees to help them live a healthier life. We proudly call this whole-person care.



Visit [Humana.findhelp.com](https://www.humana.com/findhelp) to explore Community Navigator and get started.

Humana



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### Humana is actively addressing societal challenges that have a direct impact on health outcomes



Food insecurity is a societal issue that affects 1 in 10 people in the United States.

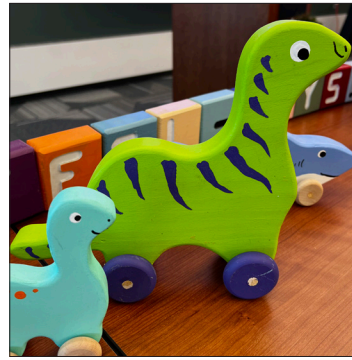
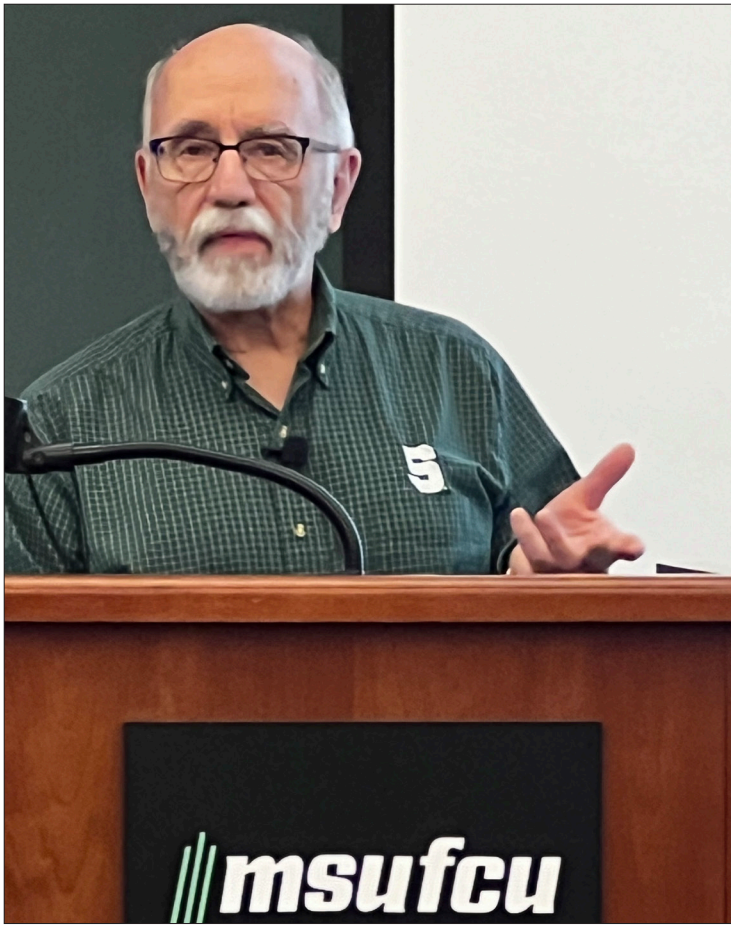


More than half of the U.S. non-driving population age 65 and older stays home on any given day because they don't have transportation.



Seniors experiencing loneliness or social isolation have a 64% increased risk of developing clinical dementia.

Sources: Health Equity | Humana | Social Determinants of Health



# It's a great toy story

It's amazing that Gene Kico, president of the R.J. Scheffel Memorial Toy Project, had the energy to speak at the December membership meeting. He and his fellow toy makers had just finished making 12,762 toys to help children in Michigan have a brighter holiday.

Kico told attendees that no toys are ever sold, but instead are given to local organizations to distribute to children. The Salvation Army takes 25% of the toys to hand out to parents for their children. Among organizations who take toys are Ele's Place, Cristo Rey Community Center, Lansing Public Schools and Headstart.

Scheffel has no paid employees, only volunteers. There are no administration costs. Much of the funding comes from donations from individuals and organizations. Please visit their website (<https://scheffel-toys.org/>) to read more about this gem in our area.

## New services that revolve around you

### New and expanding services at our 4660 S. Hagadorn Road location

- **Extended Pharmacy hours**  
8 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon-Fri.; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat.
- **Convenient Laboratory draw site**  
First Floor, Suite 170
- **Sports Med NOW walk-in visits**  
Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-11 a.m. as of Jan. 8, 2024
- **Pediatric primary care services**  
Co-located with pediatric pulmonology in Suite 405



MSU Health Care

[healthcare.msu.edu](https://healthcare.msu.edu)



Retirees Association  
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East Lansing, MI 48823-5239**



## Straight to the Point

**Market Update** - After the 10% correction that saw the S&P 500 bottom in late October, stocks have been on a tear. We have been expecting the typical Santa Claus Rally, which usually sees stocks higher late in Q4 and into the early part of the following year. This has been the case, with the rally from the October lows sending the S&P 500 back near the highs of late July. While markets generally remain in a tug-of-war between the bulls and bears, recent momentum has swung the way of the bulls, and if this continues, the S&P could be pushing for a new all-time high sometime in 2024. As of Thanksgiving, the index is only around 5% away from reaching that level. Even with some expected volatility, it remains well within reason for markets to test the high, last reached two years ago in early January of 2022.

**Special MSU Retirement Plan Update** - MSU retirement plan changes are now complete. There has been a great deal of movement, both across accounts and investments. If you or anyone you know would like to talk through the changes, or to review investments and distributions, please contact us at 877-338-4032 or [info@straightline.com](mailto:info@straightline.com).

StraightLine is a fiduciary that provides professional financial planning and account management. Our experienced advisors and dedicated research staff allows us to offer unbiased information to the MSU faithful. Our quarterly newsletter (StraightTalk) walks through the macro information we are utilizing in our investment management. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving these newsletters or discussing how we can assist with your financial strategy.

## From StraightLine Higher Education Services



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