

**September 15, 2023**



**Dear friends,**

**Rosh Hashanah is one of Judaism’s holiest days. Meaning “head of the year” or “first of the year”, Rosh Hashanah is a celebration of the Jewish New Year. It commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10 day period of introspection and repentance that leads into Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the two “High Holy Days” in the Jewish faith. This year, Rosh Hashanah begins today, Friday, September 15, and ends on the evening of Sunday, September 17. Happy New Year to all who celebrate.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

## small business **SPOTLIGHT**



### *Flex Fitness Center*

Many of us have fitness goals that we'd like to reach but don't have the time, energy or motivation. Flex Fitness is here to help. Flex ownership and staff are dedicated to supporting their members as they strive to meet their individual goals. In addition, on-site massage therapy will help you recover from your workout more quickly. Find out more at <https://www.facebook.com/Flex.FitnessRacine/>.

### **In Case You Missed It**



### *Republican Power*

#### *Grabs Take Center Stage in Busy Week at State Capitol*

Anyone paying attention to the news coming out of the State Capitol this week might have gotten whiplash from the quick pace of new developments and backtracking on previous ones.

First, it appeared that Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) was prepared to impeach newly-sworn-in Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janet Protasiewicz before she had even heard her first case. The blowback was strong and swift, as anyone with an interest in democracy and good governance speaking out against it. Before the dust settled on the impeachment threat, Vos was walking it back and suddenly had a change of heart on redistricting, introducing what he said was a nonpartisan redistricting bill. The bill would put map-drawing power in the hands of the nonpartisan Legislative Reference Bureau. Now, I have been a loud and proud advocate of nonpartisan redistricting for years, as have virtually all of my Democratic colleagues and Governor Evers. Something about this proposal smelled fishy, though. Vos announced it on a Monday afternoon, saying the Assembly would be bypassing the committee and public hearing process to vote on the bill on Wednesday. Without time to fully analyze the bill, there is no way anyone should take Vos at his word. Again, it's clear to anyone who is paying attention

that Vos knows the current GOP gerrymandered maps are unconstitutional and will be rejected by the state Supreme Court and is doing whatever he can to hang onto power. When Governor Evers quickly called Vos's bluff, Vos was back on the impeachment train, consulting with several unnamed former state Supreme Court justices to devise an impeachment plan. It's enough to make your head spin.

As if that isn't enough, Senate Republicans are stuck re-litigating the 2020 elections by attempting to "fire" Wisconsin Elections Commissioner Meagan Wolfe. Prior to the 2020 election, Wolfe's appointment was confirmed unanimously by the Senate. The six commissioners on the Elections Commission – three Democrats, three Republicans – all unequivocally support Wolfe, as do municipal and county clerks of both parties across the state. Republican legislators and activists, still pushing the "big lie" that Donald Trump was cheated out of the election, have targeted Wolfe in their conspiracy theories and want her gone so that they can install their own puppet as administrator. That effort is likely to end up in court.



## ***New Covid Boosters Now Available***

With Covid cases on the rise and we head into cold and flu season, new, updated Covid boosters are now available. On Monday, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the new shots; on Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended the boosters for everyone ages six months and up. The shots should be available now at most pharmacies. The new boosters are a much closer match to currently circulating variants than prior vaccines.



## ***National POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 15***

National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the third Friday in September, honors American service members who were prisoners of war and those still missing in action. The sacrifices made by these service members and their families must never be forgotten.

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On this day of somber recognition, it's appropriate to once again mention the UW MIA Project. Since 2015, the UW Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project has sent teams of faculty, staff and students from a number of different fields to assist in the discovery, exhumation, identification and return of remains of missing-in-action American service members. The federal Department of Defense says that there are still about 80,000 American service members listed as "missing in action". The MIA Project has brought closure to a number of families who had waited decades for answers on the fates of their loved ones. During the 2019-20 legislative session, I co-sponsored bipartisan legislation that would have provided \$180,000 per year for the Project; Republican leadership denied that bill a vote before the end of the session. The next session, Governor Evers included MIA project funding in his budget proposal; Republicans removed it. Same thing this year. There is standalone legislation on funding for the MIA Project. Earlier this summer, it had a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs, a committee that I currently sit on. Person after person, mostly veterans themselves and many of them leaders in local or state veterans groups, got up to testify in support of the bill and express their extreme frustration that they have to keep coming back because the Republican majority has refused to pass this bill. This week, the State Senate was in session for the first time since late June. I had anticipated that the MIA bill would be on the calendar, and the MIA Project would finally get the funding they need. Republicans, with a huge majority, set the agenda, and once again, service members and their families are left waiting.

## *Great Times at the Racine Lakefront Expo*





## ***Kenosha HarborMarket to Honor Italian American Heritage***

A celebration of Kenosha's rich Italian culture will take place on Saturday, October 7, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Kenosha HarborMarket. According to Lynda Ruffolo, HarborMarket board member, "Italian-American Heritage Day at the Kenosha HarborMarket will be a wonderful way to celebrate our city's time-honored culture and heritage." The celebration will include live music; a risotto cooking demonstration by Chef Mary Radigan of Tenuta's Deli; a travel Q&A with LaMachhia Travel; and Kenosha's Infusino's Ristorante serving Italian sausage and meatball bomber sliders. Other activities include grass bocce and a kids' craft table. Find out more by visiting <https://www.visitkenosha.com/listing/kenosha-harbormarket/318/>.



## ***Parkside Narrows Chancellor Search to Three Candidates***

The search for a new UW-Parkside Chancellor has been narrowed to three candidates. The UW System announced finalists Lynn Akey, Phyllis King and Felicia McGinty. Former Chancellor Debbie Ford had served since 2009 and left earlier this year to take over as Chancellor at Indiana University Southeast. Akey is currently the vice president for the division of student success, analytics and integrated planning at Minnesota State University, Mankato. King has been with UW-Milwaukee since 1993 and currently serves that school as associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and vice provost. McGinty is the director of engagement and outreach for Higher Education Resource Services in Denver, Colorado.