



Emeriti Association
OHIO
UNIVERSITY

[Emeriti website](#)
February
2023

Emeriti Meeting - February 2023

The Emeriti Association has scheduled an in-person luncheon meeting for February.

Location: Athens Country Club, 7606 Country Club Rd, Athens, OH 45701

Date & Time: Thursday, February 16, 11:30 AM

Luncheon will be Buffet style, menu TBA

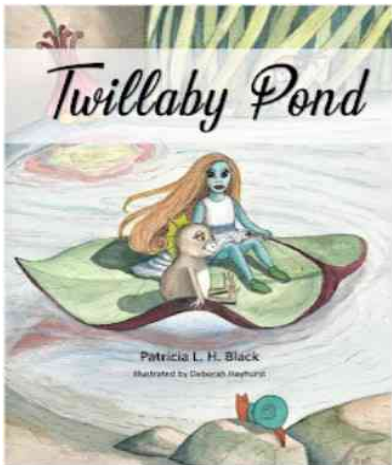
Cost: \$23 per person. Please have exact dollar amount at the door or a check made payable to the *OU Emeriti Association*.

Luncheon reservations are required: Reservation deadline is noon on Tuesday, February 14. Early reservations are encouraged. RSVP by sending an email to Tom Franz <franz@ohio.edu> confirming your reservation(s).

The speaker will be our own Emeriti Friend, **Patricia L. H. Black**, author of *Twillaby Pond*. In describing the poetry selections in the book, Patricia notes:



Twillaby Pond started out in imitation of Irish poets. I love the lilt in most of their poetry, echoing the lilt in their everyday speech, the turn of a clever phrase, the whole language bit. The first stanza of *Twillaby Pond* almost wrote itself, requiring just a few tweaks. One very important comment pointed out that my original "little, small pocks" skated a bit too close to a dread disease! Besides, "little, WEE pocks" is closer to my Irish target. To get back to the actual question, whenever I read the poem at workshops and open-mike sessions people said they could just see it as a children's book. Judging by the reaction to the actual book, I have to agree. I had originally thought children were my niche audience but on reflection I think grandparents are the audience. At readings, that's who say, "I want to read this book to my grandbabies!"



Patricia has taught English in Italy, was editor of Ohio University Publications, worked as a travel agent and drove a bookmobile. Now she writes poems, does beadwork, gardens, and edits academic papers for international students. She is a member of the Athens Poetry Group, the PentaPoets online poetry group, the Evening Poets, and the Ohio Poetry Association. Her poems have appeared in *Common Threads* and in the Ohio Poetry Association's juried anthology *Everything Stops and Listens*. She has been a featured reader in Ohio in Athens, Cincinnati, Columbus, Coshocton, Marion and Wooster.

Source and more information can be found here:

<https://ginamc.blogspot.com/2019/11/an-interview-with-ohio-author-patricia.html>

Notes from the January 19 meeting

The late Scott Moody, Emeriti Association Vice President (2019 photo)

Emeriti Association Chair of Volunteer Services **Martin Tuck** began the meeting by reading the following statement from Emeriti President **Rosemary Rossiter** noting, "Scott was a most valued member of the Ohio University Emeriti Association. For many years he volunteered to recruit speakers for the Association's luncheons, drawing upon his wide-ranging interests from historical societies to environmental and science interests. Thanks to his thoughtful service, emeriti were both entertained and intellectually challenged. Scott was always a gentleman as well as a scholar. He will be sorely missed." Marty then requested a moment of silence to honor Scott.

Here is Ohio University's memorial tribute to Scott Moody: <https://www.ohio.edu/news/2023/01/university-community-mourns-biology-professor-emeritus-scott-moody>



Marty said faculty and Emeriti have suggested that a fitting memorial to Scott be placed in the Emeriti Park, perhaps a bird bath with a dedication plaque since Scott was a very active member of the Athens Area Birders. More information will follow.

In other business, **David Thomas** was elected to the position of Chair of the Elections Committee along with a round of applause to **John Howell** who had served in that position for a number of years.

Marty then introduced **Dr. Robert Demott**, Kennedy Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus, speaker for the meeting.



Demott recounted how he first became interested in the work of author John Steinbeck, writing a senior thesis on Steinbeck after reading in *Travels With Charley: In Search of America* about hurricane Donna, an experience with which he could identify. After a master's thesis on T.S. Elliot and a PhD dissertation on Thoreau, he noted that one thing led to another in the theme of, "We do not take a trip; a trip takes us", quoting from *Travels With Charley*, and leading to his in-depth research on Steinbeck especially what was happening behind the scenes such as Steinbeck's extensive journaling while also writing his novels. Demott has published 13 books on or about Steinbeck including his most recent, *Steinbeck's Imaginarium* published by the University of New Mexico Press in November 2022. An MP3 audio file of Demott's presentation can be made available upon request to Emeriti who missed the program.



Selected images from Robert Demott's presentation

STEINBECK'S IMAGINARIUM

Five Decades Traveling the John
Steinbeck Road

"...we do not take a trip; a trip takes
us." TWC

"Steinbeck Country," Northern California (Harry Moore, 1939)



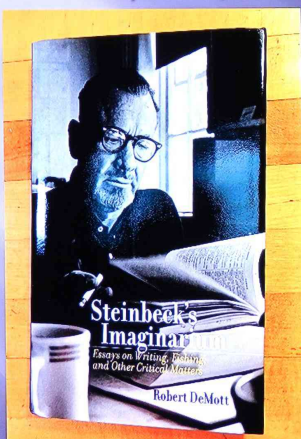
Compelling Points about John Steinbeck's Writings

- America as a subject for sustained inquiry (America and Americans, Travels with Charley)
- Social conscience, situational moral/ethical bearing (In Dubious Battle, Of Mice and Men, The Red Pony, The Grapes of Wrath, The Pearl, East of Eden, The Winter of Our Discontent)
- Tolerant, inclusive, humanistic values (Tortilla Flat, Of Mice and Men, The Grapes of Wrath, The Forgotten Village)
- Ecological, relational, holistic view of life (The Grapes of Wrath, Sea of Cortez, Cannery Row)
- Search for home and "family" (The Pearl, East of Eden)
- Belief in power of language to make people understand each other

Steinbeck and Addiction to the Reading/Writing Life

- "I feel good when I am doing it [writing], better than when I am not."
- "Rationale," 1957

Erich Hartman photo of Steinbeck, late 1958-early 1959, "at thought and work."



100 Years Ago
The Girls Rifle Team
Washington Central High School (DC)



Photo courtesy of National Photo Company Collection - Library of Congress