

Living Well with Dementia: It Takes a Community!

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022
1:00 p.m. on Zoom**

***Special Thanks to all those who made this
presentation possible, including:***

- The Bernard Osher Foundation
- WVU School of Public Health
- The Irving Goodman Aging Lecture Series Committee

Irving Goodman Aging Lecturers

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Susan H. McFadden, PhD
Professor Emerita of Psychology,
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
& Co-founder of Fox Valley Memory Project

Susan H. McFadden, Ph.D.

Susan McFadden, Professor Emerita of Psychology, taught at UW Oshkosh from 1985 to 2012. Since retiring, she has continued to work with faculty colleagues, undergraduates, and graduate students on research related to dementia. Her most recent book is *Dementia-Friendly Communities: Why We Need Them and How We Can Create Them* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2021).

In 2011, she helped to establish the Fox Valley Memory Project (FVMP; www.foxvalleymemoryproject.org), an organization that offers programs and services for people living with dementia. She continues to be very involved with its activities. For example, she and her husband facilitate one of the 14 monthly FVMP Memory Cafes. Memory Cafes offer two hours of enjoyable stigma-free social connection for people with dementia and their care partners. Dr. McFadden participates in a worldwide network of people who work with people at all stages of dementia. She is particularly interested in how engagement with various art forms can bring meaning and joy to individuals with progressive cognitive challenges.

Dr. McFadden taught high school psychology in 1971-72 while working on her Master's degree at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA) where she also earned the BA in Psychology in 1970. After getting the MS in Experimental Psychology, she taught at a large community college in New Jersey before moving to Wisconsin in 1983. Her doctoral work in Psychology and Religion (Drew University, Madison, NJ) focused on older adults and she has published numerous works on religion, spirituality, and aging.

Since retiring, she's been taking drum lessons and longs to connect with other women her age who play electric guitar and bass. She and her husband have a cabin in the Upper Peninsula near Munising where they go for hammock-sitting, eagle-watching, kayaking, snow-shoeing, reading, and listening to all kinds of music. A particular delight in her life is any time she can be with her two adult children, their spouses, and her two grandchildren.

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