A longtime Bloomington resident, Renate Kasak was born and raised in Vienna, where she received an M.A. in English and German.

After her move to the US, she studied at the Department for Germanic Studies at UMD/College Park. She taught adult education in Austria, as well as courses at the college level and at the Goethe Institute in Chicago.

How and when did coffee and coffee houses appear in Vienna, and what significance did these public places of discourse have in regard to political and cultural developments? Renate Kasak will introduce some of Vienna's most famous' Kaffeehausliteraten' (coffee house literati) and their texts, as well as discuss other circles of intellectuals that frequented coffee houses in Vienna.