



*Australopithecus sediba*

*Homo naledi*

## THE DAWN OF HUMANITY

Have you ever wondered who came before us? What did they think and feel and fear and love? Were they like us or more savage or more loving?

Who were our deep time ancestors and relatives, the hominins? When did we leave the ape world and cross over into ours? When did we change from jutting jaws and small brains to small jaws and bigger brains?

The study of hominins in deep time has been punctuated by the absence of a straight line of fossilized hominin bones, i.e., the story is rather ragged because it has been based on a tooth found here, a bone fragment found there, a skull fragment way over there, and so on.

But what is happening now is that excavations in Africa are coming up with hundreds of bones from dozens of ancient hominins.

The PBS movie entitled "Dawn of Humanity" was shown in the fall of 2015 and if you missed it, like I did, don't miss this showing—this is a remarkable film with extraordinary people in it experiencing the thrill and excitement of a major scientific discovery. You really haven't seen anything like this.

Gary will give a short introduction so that some words like *Australopithecus* won't be so mysterious. Hint: Say Oss-straw-lo-PITH-ee-cuss. See, that wasn't so bad, was it?

You will be surprised and delighted to let this film take you places you never would have anticipated. For instance, why is it an advantage to be a female paleoanthropologist? (And what's a paleoanthropologist in the first place?)

The movie and discussion will be at Nancy Sand's Gramercy Club community room, 15001 Burnhaven Dr., Burnsville, MN 55306. We will start at 1:00 p.m. sharp on Monday, July 18, 2016. If enough interest, we'll supper afterwards at the Olive Garden close by. For more information and directions, contact Gary Gray, [gdgray@q.com](mailto:gdgray@q.com), 952-895-8960.