NEWSWATCH

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**Next meeting: 2 p.m., Wednesday, February 8**

**Peterson Room, Showalter House, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass**

**Glenn Gass, Bob Dylan: what a duo!**



When retirees gather in February, **Glenn Gass,** Provost Professor of Music at the Jacobs School, will talk about Bob Dylan, recipient of the 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature. The meeting will be at the IU Foundation on Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.

Gass’s courses on the history of rock and pop music were the first to be offered through a music school and are now the longest running courses of their kind in the world. He is the recipient of numerous teaching awards and the Herman B Wells Lifetime Achievement Award. A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, Gass earned his master’s and doctorate in music at IU.

At age 75, Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.” The author of such songs as “Blowin’ in the Wind,” “Like a Rolling Stone,” “The Times They Are a-Changin’,” and “Mr. Tambourine Man,” Dylan has sold more than 100 million records.

At its January meeting the IURA board affirmed that members are welcome to bring guests to program events, including the February meeting.

**Emeriti House cosponsors program**

Emeriti House Director **Bill McGregor**, also a member of the IURA board, looks forward to “lots of joint interaction” and “lots of traffic back and forth between our organizations.” Toward that end the Emeriti House is cosponsoring February’s program on Bob Dylan.

IURA members are welcome at all Emeriti House events. You can add your name to the listserv by emailing coordinator Nat McKamey (emeriti@indiana.edu). Programs are advertised on the website, <http://www.indiana,edu/~emeriti>.

**Good news worth repeating: Retirees once again surpass United Way goal**

What heartwarming generosity! Once again retirees have gone above and beyond in supporting their community. At the Jan. 11 meeting IURA President **Joanie Curts** announced that retirees so far have pledged $174,367 to the 2017 United Way campaign, achieving 102 percent of the $170,000 goal. As of Jan. 10 there are 203 donors, including 79 Vanguards, those pledging $1,000 or more. To date retirees account for more than 16 percent of the individual United Way pledge total.

Every year United Way sets the goal higher, and every year retirees exceed it. The record speaks for itself:

**Year** **Goal**   **Raised** **Contrib.** **Vanguards**

2017 $170,000 $174,367 203 79

2016 $145,000 $172,503 201 79

2015 $135,000 $153,000 195 69

2014 $125,000 $131,773 161 62

2013 $115,000 $137,000 224 64

2012 $100,000 $115,000 161 62

The IURA’s United Way leadership team – **Doris Burton**, **Wain Martin**, and **Harriet Pfister** – has been spearheading this effort for a long time. Although none of them can remember exactly how long, they know it’s been well over a decade. Kudos to them and to all who helped the IURA surpass its goal!

**Add these names to your IURA directory**

Late last year **Doris Wittenburg**, IURA database manager, compiled a directory of 419 IURA members. It was mailed with the December *Newswatch*. Two members were accidentally omitted. Please add to your directory:

**Owen V. Johnson**

2910 Ramble Road East

Bloomington 47408-1047

812-332-1811, owenvjohnson@gmail.com

**Odette F. Shepherd**

3201 S. Coppertree Drive

Bloomington, IN 47401-9397

shepher@indiana.edu

A formatting problem meant **Martha Wailes** was omitted from the list of board members, although her contact information was listed in her capacity as chair of the hospitality committee.

If you misplaced your directory, a few copies are still available from Judy Schroeder by request: jschroed@indiana.edu.

**Nominating committee begins work**

At the Jan. 11 meeting IURA President **Joanie Curts** announced that in April three board members will be elected for three-year terms. Nominating committee chair is IURA Secretary **Ralf Shaw**, shawd@indiana.edu, and committee members are:

**Doris Burton**, burtond@indiana.edu,

**Gerald Marker**, marker@indiana.edu, and **Mary Rose,** mrose@indiana.edu.

If you wish to nominate someone or are willing to serve, please let one of these people know.

Board members with expiring terms are **Suzanne Phillips**, **Carol Stokes**, and **Martha Wailes**.

**Museum director Brenneman describes renovation, looks toward future**

“I would rather underpromise and overdeliver than overpromise and underdeliver,” said **David Brenneman**, director of the Eskenazi Museum of Art. Speaking at the Jan. 11 meeting of the IURA, Brenneman was explaining that the museum will be closed for up to three years, beginning May 7, for extensive renovation. It may take less time, he said, but construction projects are notorious for being late.

“Buildings need to be renovated from time to time,” Brenneman pointed out. “In many ways our building is more complicated than a hospital. It is a sort of preservation machine. The interventions will make the building function better.”

Security and air handling systems will be updated and galleries will be renovated. “People underestimate the amazing quality of our permanent collection,” Brenneman said, “because the galleries look a little tatty.”

Today it would not be possible for a museum to acquire such a varied and valuable collection as is present in Bloomington. “The works wouldn’t be available,” he said, “and even if they were, we couldn’t afford them,” not at today’s prices. Were the museum to be moved to almost any major American city, it would become that city’s major museum because of the quality of its collection, he said.

The museum owes its richness to its history. Founded by Henry Radford Hope in 1941 with the support of Herman B Wells, the museum had gallery space in Mitchell Hall. When the Fine Arts Building opened in 1962, the art museum found a home there. Both Hope and Wells collected art, which they donated to the museum. When Thomas T. Solley became director in 1971, the museum had 4,000 works. An architect himself, Solley hired I.M. Pei to build the Art Museum, which was dedicated in 1982. By the time Solley retired in 1985, the collection had grown to more than 30,000 pieces, many from Solley’s own collection. Heidi Gealt became director in 1987, retiring in 2015. The collection now numbers 45,000 works. In introducing Brenneman, IURA Vice President **Doug Porter** envisioned a museum Mount Rushmore, with Hope, Solley, Gealt – and someday Brenneman.

Because of what Brenneman called “a very effective docent program,” 16,000 people visited the museum last year on 1,107 tours. More than 10,000 IU students visit the museum annually as part of a structured class experience, and every second-grader in the MCCSC goes to the museum. Last year’s Youth Art Month in March brought about 550 people to a display of art by MCCSC students.

Before Feb. 5 there is still time to visit the Eskenazi Museum’s exhibits of contemporary artist Vik Muniz and master drawings by Giambattista and Domenico Tiepolo. From March 11 to May 7 the museum will exhibit recent works by Chee Wang Ng, depicting the Chinese diaspora, and European abstract paintings 1949-68, with works by Willi Baumeister, Victor Vasarely, and Pierre Soulages, among others. MFA thesis exhibitions will run from March 29 to May 7.

The museum’s acquisition budget is very modest, Brenneman said. “One reason our collection is so good is that Tom Solley bought out of his own pocket,” he said. Heidi Gealt’s emphasis was on building an endowment for acquisitions. That endowment now stands at about $1.5 million, making about $60,000 available annually.

As for timing of the renovation, “everything and everybody has to be out of the museum by the end of the summer,” Brenneman explained. During the renovation the collection will be “perfectly safe and secure but not accessible.”

“Will the renovation do anything about those wacky stairs?” a retiree asked. The answer is no. Beginning in the 1960s, Brenneman said, architects began to think of museums as monumental sculptures, art works in their own right. “Architects subvert curators’ wishes at every level,” he said, and the stairs “are one of the architectural conceits of our building.” Changing the stairs would be like changing a painting by Picasso to straighten the nose, and the stairs will remain “a quirky part of our building.” The elevator will be updated, however, and made more visible, as will the fire stairs.

Although Brenneman spent the 13 years before coming to IU at the High Museum in Atlanta, he is originally from Pennsylvania. After his first visit to the Bloomington Farmers Market, with its Amish and Mennonite vendors, he called his parents, who still live in Lancaster County, and told them he thought he was in far west Lancaster County.

After the program, people could stand in line for two-step login or enjoy the snacks provided by **Bob Dodd**, **Suzann Owen**, and **Martha Wailes**.

**Continuing your art education …**

There is still time to enroll in IU Lifelong Learning’s class Looking at Modern and Contemporary Art, which meets three Tuesdays in February (Feb. 7, 14, and 21) at the Eskenazi Museum of Art. David Brenneman is one of three instructors. Call (812) 855-9355 or register online, <https://www.lifelonglearning.indiana.edu>.

**IU Retirees Association Nonprofit Org.**

**P.O. Box 8393 U.S. Postage PAID**

**Bloomington, IN 47407-8393 Bloomington, IN**

**Two-step login deadline fast approaching**

After the Jan. 11 meeting, a line of retirees queued up for help with Two-Step Login (Duo), provided by friendly, helpful UITS employees. The deadline that Central Authentication Service has established is Feb. 2. Help is still available in several ways:

* Go to <https://kb.iu.edu/d/bfgm> and follow the directions.
* Go to the walk-up desk at the Learning Commons at Wells Library. Help is available at M089 in the IMU Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
* Find locations for face-to-face support at <https://itnews.iu.edu/events/face-to-face-support-for-two-step-login.php>
* Call the general UITS helpline at (812) 855-6789.

Two-step verification provides users with a greater level of security against incursions by cybercriminals. It is now required for many financial institutions and for TIAA/CREF.

**Rounding out the 2016-2017 calendar**

The last two programs of the IU Retirees Association year will be at the IU Foundation. On April 12 at 2 p.m., **Dr. Rob Stone,** medical director of IU Health’s palliative care program, will speak. The annual pitch-in dinner is scheduled for May 10 at 5 p.m., with **Randy White** of Cardinal Stage presenting an after-dinner program.

The IURA does not meet in March, and there is no newsletter in February.

**About this newsletter**

*Newswatch* is published eight times each year, August through April, except for February. To correct your address or be removed from the list, please contact database manager **Doris Wittenburg,** dwittenb@indiana.edu. **Judy Schroeder** writes *Newswatch.* Send corrections or comments to her at jschroed@indiana.edu.