



NEWSWATCH

Vol. 2021-22 No. 8

April 2022

**Next meetings: 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 4, and
Noon, Wednesday, May 25**

New president to speak at joint event



On Wednesday, May 4, the IURA and Emeriti House are sponsoring a joint meeting to hear from IU President **Pamela Whitten**. We will gather in person at 2 p.m. in the Peterson Room at Showalter House/IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass. A Zoom link will be on the website and emailed to IURA members a few days before the event.

Following President Whitten's short presentation, there will be an opportunity for questions. Read more about the president at iu.edu/about/leadership/president/biography.html.

Spring luncheon to feature harps

The Bloomington Country Club ballroom will be the site of the IURA spring luncheon on May 25 at noon. "Retirees who attended the December luncheon asked for a return visit to this venue," says IURA Hospitality Chair **Martha Smiley**. The reservation form in this newsletter must be received by May 17.

The luncheon will feature the country club's signature Hoosier Buffet, with fried chicken and pot roast au jus. A vegan, gluten-free roasted vegetable strudel will be available if requested in advance. The buffet will also offer buttermilk whipped potatoes, fresh green beans, coleslaw, and cornbread muffins. Dessert will be freshly baked cookies and brownies. Lemonade, iced water, and coffee will be available. The cost is \$27 for members and \$30 for nonmembers.

Driving directions: Turn off South Rogers at the country club sign and drive for about a quarter of a mile to the clubhouse. Passengers can be dropped off

at the main entrance, under an awning. The ballroom is easily accessible from there. An elevator to the main floor from the lower level, near the parking lot, is available.

Moya Wright, executive director of USA International Harp Competition, will speak, and a young harpist from the Jacobs School of Music will play. In the last week of June, 40 outstanding young harpists from around the world will arrive in Bloomington to compete in the USA International Harp Competition. "Most of them have been practicing and preparing for the competition for nearly two years," Moya says. "There will be more harps in Bloomington than in many small countries."



Founded in 1989 by **Susann McDonald**, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Harp at the Jacobs School of Music, the USA International Harp Competition is held every three years. It is recognized as one of most prestigious and lucrative solo harp competitions in the world. It takes place over 10 days, with the participants competing before a jury of distinguished international judges. The gold medalist receives a cash prize, concert engagements, and a harp valued at \$55,000, donated by Lyon & Healy Harps of Chicago. Harpists who finish second through eighth receive cash prizes. Mélanie Laurent, the 2019 gold medalist, will perform in Auer Hall at 8 p.m. on Sunday, July 3.

Metz: media landscape has changed

When the Bingham family owned the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, they considered a 2 to 3 percent profit margin acceptable. But when Gannett bought the paper, it announced it expected a profit margin of 35 percent.

Perry Metz told this story to retirees on April 13 to emphasize his point that it's not the Internet that is killing newspapers. It's out-of-town ownership with a focus on profits. The newspaper business, with printing and home delivery costs added to wages, has a high overhead. Profits go up when staff is cut and fewer pages are printed. GateHouse, owned by New Media Investment Group, acquired the Bloomington *Herald-Times* and later Gannett, along with its name. Gannett now owns 200 dailies and 1,000 weeklies in 46 states. Its motivation, Perry said, is to increase shareholder return, not to serve the public interest.

The price? "If newspapers don't survive, will democracy?" Perry asked. "Democracy works only when voters are informed."

With the decline of daily print journalism, people too often are viewing only the side of the story with which they agree. Instead of factual reports that allow you to draw your own conclusions, cable news and various websites frequently seek to entertain and to provoke, to get your blood going. "I assign a lot of the blame to Rush Limbaugh, with his barroom tirade that went on for three hours," Perry said.

Among all these different voices, which can you trust? Where do our preferred sources fall on the spectrum of fairness? Perry cited a media bias chart created by adfontesmedia.com, a watchdog organization. It places media on a continuum from far left to far right and from fact reporting to actual misinformation. The chart shows AP, PBS, Reuters, CBS, and ABC as the most neutral.

For local news, Perry recommends the free daily news digest available by email through [Indiana Public Media](#). "I guarantee it will link you to things you didn't know," he said, pointing out that its circulation now surpasses that of the *Herald-Times*. Other local sources mentioned by retirees include the [Bloomingtonian](#), Jeremy Hogan's one-man operation, and the [BSquareBulletin](#), which focuses on local government.

In introducing Perry, IURA Past President **Doug Porter** said that at the last in-person IURA meeting, on Feb. 12, 2020, he had said, "Enjoy your spring break. See you in April!" He had no idea that it would be April 2022. Doug suggested that Perry's appointment as general manager of WFIU and WTIU in 2003 was almost preordained. Perry's father was an iconic figure in Louisville media, hosting the city's longest running radio show.

The Zoom recording of the meeting can be accessed from the Events page of the IURA website, <https://iura.indiana.edu>.

Annual meeting is IURA's first hybrid

The 2022 annual meeting was a first for the IURA. About 30 people gathered in person on April 13 in the Peterson Room at the IU Foundation, with 40 more joining by Zoom. IURA President **Charlie Matson**, down with what he described as a "mild COVID case," presided on Zoom and summarized the year's activities.

Treasurer **Anita Douglas** also gave her report via Zoom. The good news is that the organization is financially strong. On Aug. 31, 2021, the balance was \$19,533.90. At the end of March, thanks to dues payments received, the balance was \$20,514.32 – although two issues of the newsletter have yet to be printed and mailed.

Three people were elected to three-year terms on the IURA board of directors. Current treasurer **Anita Douglas** and current vice president **Joyce Krothe** were re-elected to second terms, and **Beau** (Elizabeth) **Vallance** will be joining the board.

Remembering our friends

Twice a year since 2008, in the April and August issues, Newswatch memorializes members who have died since the last listing. Because of space limitations, only IURA members can be included. A complete list of obituaries is on the IURA website. Please notify the editor (jschroed@indiana.edu, 812-332-5057) of any omissions.

Doris Lare Brineman died on Nov. 4, 2021, in Bloomington. She was 95. An IU graduate, she joined the Local Council of Women, writing press releases to help raise funds for the Bloomington Hospital. She was the first public relations director for Bloomington Hospital and held that job for 21 years. After retiring, she volunteered at the hospital for another 35 years. She worked part time for the IU News Bureau. She served on the Hospital Foundation Board and the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department Foundation. From 1996 to 1999 she was on the board of the IU Annuitants Association, the precursor of the IURA, serving as vice president in 1998-1999. Doris enjoyed bridge, reading, and entertaining. She was a member of First Christian

Church for more than 70 years. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels and the Bloomington Thrift Shop. Her husband, Don, former associate dean of the University Division, died in 1995.

Marylou Musser Brown died June 9, 2021, in Carbondale, Ill. She was 89. Born in Atlanta, she graduated from James Madison University and earned a master's degree from Boston University. She moved to Bloomington in 1962 with her husband, Larry, a professor in the School of Education. He died in 2017. Marylou was involved with the League of Women Voters and the local Democratic Party. In her 40s, after earning another master's degree, this one in counseling, she led Bloomington's D.A.R.E. program. An activist to the end of her life, she joined the LGBT, #MeToo, and BLM movements.

Barbara Alba Bush died Sept. 9, 2021, in Nashville, Ind. She was 76. Born in Omaha, she began her career with Northwestern Bell Co. She moved to Brown County in 1968 and earned a bachelor's degree from IUPU Columbus. She was a supervisor at Indiana Bell, AT&T, and Unisys before becoming an academic adviser at IUB in 2000. After she retired from IUB in 2015, she worked at IUPUC. Barbara was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church. She enjoyed cookouts and horseshoe tournaments.

Robert "Bob" DeVoe died in Bloomington on Dec. 19, 2021. He was 87. He was born in White Plains, N.Y., and graduated from Oberlin College. After earning his Ph.D. in physiology at Rockefeller

University, Bob taught at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine before joining IU's School of Optometry in 1983. Among his research subjects was the physiology of the compound eyes of insects and crustaceans. He retired in 1999. A music lover, he was on the board of several Bloomington early music groups and rarely missed an opera performance. He served as president of the Unitarian Universalist Church congregation. He enjoyed gardening, camping, hiking, skiing, and traveling. Bob embraced technology and was a member of IU's SMUG, Serious Macintosh Users Group. He is survived by his wife, Libby, who retired in 2001 as associate director of the Office of Overseas Study.

Janice Dansberger Harste died in Conway, S.C., on Sept. 22, 2021. She was 80. Born in Towson, Md., Janice earned a bachelor's degree at IU. She worked for the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and served in the Peace Corps in Bolivia. Actively involved with Girl Scouts throughout her life, she started the first Girl Scout troop in Bolivia and later was a Girl Scout leader in Bloomington. Janice was department secretary in IU's geology department. She started a children's book publishing company in Bloomington with her husband, Jerome. A professor emeritus in the School of Education, he survives.

Jennifer Amys Hubbard died March 25, 2021, in Bozeman, Mont. She was 88. Born in Leicester, England, she graduated from Loughborough College. In 1963 she moved to Bloomington. She served on

RESERVATION FOR MAY 25 LUNCHEON

Doors Open 11:30 a.m., Buffet at Noon
Bloomington Country Club, 3000 S. Rogers St.

PLEASE PRINT Name(s) _____

_____ Please initial and circle this line to pre-order the vegan, gluten-free vegetable strudel.
All others will have the Hoosier Buffet.

The cost is for each meal for IURA members is \$27, \$30 for nonmembers. Please mail this form, together with your check, to IU Retirees Association
P.O. Box 8393
Bloomington, IN 47407-8393

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY NO LATER THAN MAY 17

**IU Retirees Association
P.O. Box 8393
Bloomington, IN 47407-8393**

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the board of the Local Council of Women and was a Pink Lady for 35 years. A member of Psi Iota Xi philanthropic sorority, she worked in the Thrift Shop for more than 20 years. She was a volunteer escort at the local Planned Parenthood clinic and delivered Meals on Wheels for 35 years. She participated in the 1983 March on Washington. Jennifer was a founding member of the Bloomington Yacht Club and served two terms as commodore. She enjoyed sailing, traveling, and gardening. Her husband, Guy, professor emeritus of art education, died in 2009.

Martin “Marty” Joachim Jr. died Aug. 30, 2021, in Bloomington. He was 82. Born in Indianapolis, he earned his BA in classics and two master’s degrees from IU. He served as scholarship adviser to his fraternity for more than 10 years. Marty worked his entire career in the cataloging department of IU Libraries, writing the text that appears in card catalogs. He edited two books, *Languages of the World: Cataloging Issues and Problems* and *Historical Aspects of Cataloging and Classification*. For years after retirement, he volunteered at the Lilly Library. Marty was a supporter of IU basketball, theater, and opera. He collected books, stamps, art, pottery, and movies. He was a gourmet cook and enjoyed traveling, Scrabble, and *The New York Times* crossword puzzles.

Susan Miller Lovell died in Bloomington on Dec. 26, 2021. She was 75. Susan was born in Madison, Ind., and attended IU. For more than 30 years she worked at the Student Health Center, where, as coordinator of the Women’s Clinic, she assisted victims of sexual assault. She had season tickets for

IU men’s basketball for almost 50 years. She was a Master Gardener and enjoyed watching her grandsons play soccer, basketball, and baseball. Her husband, Roy, assistant director of the IMU for 30 years, died in 2006.

Katrina “Trina” Steck Mescher died on Jan. 29, 2021, in Bloomington. She was 71. Born in Westerville, Ohio, Trina graduated from Otterbein College and did postgraduate work at Ohio State. For 27 years she taught at St. Mark’s Nursery School and Kindergarten. An excellent cook, she was also a lover of the natural world. She volunteered at the Community Kitchen and the Interfaith Winter Shelter. She was a longtime member of the board of directors of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Trina is survived by her husband of 45 years, Tony, professor emeritus of anatomy and cell biology.

Because of space limitations, obituaries for **JoAnne Namy, Jim Peterson, Stephen Stein, Alfred Strickholm, Shirley Watkins, and Allen White** will appear in the May/June newsletter.

About this newsletter

At its April 6 meeting the IURA board authorized funds for the printing and mailing of an additional newsletter in May/June. Editor **Judy Schroeder** writes *Newswatch* eight times each year (10 in 2021, 9 in 2022). For comments or corrections, please contact her at jschroed@indiana.edu. To correct your address, please contact database manager **Doris Wittenburg** at dwittenb@indiana.edu.