



NEWSWATCH

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March 2024

**Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10, at 2 p.m.
EITHER Peterson Room, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass, OR Zoom**

Glenn Gass to present Beatlemania



In the year that marks the 60th anniversary of the Beatles' appearance in the U.S., popular proponent of pop **Glenn Gass**, Provost Professor and Rudy Professor Emeritus at the Jacobs School, will recall their impact and influence. When retirees and guests gather on April

10, IURA member **Tim Londergan**, Gass's long-time friend, will introduce the program, which will feature video recordings.

Thanks to Gass, IU's music school was the first to offer for-credit courses in rock music. During his 40-year career, "Doctor Rock," as he came to be known, has had more than 60,000 students in his courses. In 1982, while earning his doctorate, he taught his first IU class at Collins LLC.

Gass, who grew up in Greencastle, was among the 73 million people watching on Feb. 9, 1964, when the Beatles made their first U.S. television appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show." As a second grader, he wore a Beatles wig to class and wrote the Beatles a fan letter. In 1998, for the first time, he took a group of students to England to study the Beatles in London and Liverpool.

He enjoys teaching senior citizens, who, he notes, are "now the Beatle cohort."

Emeriti House and University Club members will join us at the Peterson Room at the IU Foundation or on Zoom. The link will be posted on the website.

Cate cites Supreme Court challenges

On March 13, **Beth Cate**, clinical associate professor of law and public affairs at the O'Neill School, spoke to more than 60 retirees at the IU Foundation, with more than 20 joining by Zoom. Program chair **Tony Mescher** pointed out that the IURA doesn't usually meet in March, which makes the record attendance even more remarkable. Cate talked about three challenges facing the Supreme Court: former President Donald Trump, originalism, and ethics.



Trump. The Supreme Court has decided one major case relating to Trump this term and is scheduled to hear another. The court expedited *Trump v Anderson*, where the Colorado Supreme Court had ruled that the 14th Amendment's insurrection clause disqualified Trump from appearing on that state's ballot. The Supreme Court unanimously reversed that decision. Why? "The president is responsible to all voters of the nation," Cate said of the court's ruling, and "one state cannot make a decision that may affect the outcome of an election for everyone." Five justices went further, arousing controversy by declaring that disqualifying a candidate is the responsibility of Congress, not the courts.

In late April, the court will begin hearing *Trump v U.S.*, where the issue is “whether – and if so, to what extent – Trump can claim immunity from criminal prosecution for acts performed as the president or as a candidate for that office.” Why did the Supreme Court take this case rather than simply denying cert after the D.C. Court of Appeals had given a carefully measured opinion? Cate believes it is likely that the court took the case to reject definitively the scope of immunity that Trump is claiming.

Originalism declares that the court must interpret the Constitution in accordance with the “original public meaning” of the words when it was written and adopted. Its advocates claim originalism is objective, with the court using familiar analytical tools. It avoids judicial policy-making and fosters public confidence in the courts.

But no persuasive evidence shows originalism to be objective, opponents say. Most issues have no definitive historical precedent, and judges may cherry-pick evidence and manipulate the theory to support their desired conclusions. Opponents also point out that originalism would invalidate previous court rulings (e.g., *Brown v Board of Education*) and prohibit an evolving understanding of rights and responsibilities that serve deep Constitutional values embraced by the founders but not reflected in the laws of 1791 or 1868.

“A very well-heeled advocacy lobby,” Cate said, supports an originalist interpretation of the Second Amendment. In 2022, in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*, the Supreme Court struck down a state law restricting public carry of guns, saying it violated the Second Amendment because no comparable regulation was part of the historical tradition when the amendment was written.

A case now before the court may help clarify its position on originalism, Cate said. In *U.S. v Rahimi*, a lower court upheld the ruling that someone with a protective order against him cannot possess firearms. After *Bruen*, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the conviction of unlawful possession, saying it could find no sufficient historical analogue. The Supreme Court’s decision in this case should be instructive, Cate said.

Ethics. In response to what Cate called Clarence Thomas’s “self-inflicted wound,” actions that opened him to charges of partiality, the Supreme Court has written a code of ethics. There is no enforcement

mechanism, however (although impeachment remains a possibility). When Antonin Scalia was asked why he didn’t recuse himself from a case involving Dick Cheney, his shooting buddy, he wrote a 20-page explanation. Today that seems quaint.

Harlan Lewis asked about the “shadow docket,” where, without discussion or explanation, the Supreme Court intercedes to suspend or reverse lower court orders. Cate said she shares concerns about the shadow docket’s increasingly frequent use, which may well contribute to the public’s low opinion of the court.

Cate maintains that the Supreme Court is no longer Chief Justice John Roberts’s court. The swing votes of Roberts, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett play a crucial role in a divided court. When **Jan Hillier** characterized today’s court as “abominable,” Cate said the current court reflects the Federalist Society’s decades-long effort to reshape it. She pointed out that, although it’s unsurprising that judges reflect the views of the appointing president, Trump has been famously unhappy with his appointees’ independence.

Comments afterward described the presentation as excellent, fascinating, riveting, and a “smashing success.” One Zoom participant observed, “I could have listened for another hour.”

A video recording of the meeting is posted on the IURA website.

Annual meeting slated for April 10

Following the April 10 presentation by Glenn Gass, the IURA will hold its annual meeting. On the agenda will be the election of three voting board members. IURA Vice President **Perry Maull** chairs the nominating committee. Other members are **Lynn Coyne**, **Bill McGregor**, **Tony Mescher**, and **Anna Radue**.

Members whose terms expire this year are **Charlie Matson**, **Tony Mescher**, and **Audrey Morgan**. Audrey is eligible for another three-year term and has volunteered to seek re-election. The nominating committee welcomes suggestions for the two other positions.

In addition, there is an opening for *Newswatch* editor, a position **Judy Schroeder** has held for 16

years. "It's proving very challenging to find someone," Perry says, "because Judy has created very high expectations with her skills in writing and producing the IURA's single most important communications medium." If you have any suggestions for an editor, please let any member of the nominating committee know.

Art sought for EH/IURA exhibit

The 21st annual Emeriti House/IURA art exhibit will open with a reception on Friday, April 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Emeriti House, 1015 Atwater Ave. Artwork must be submitted before 11 a.m. Monday, April 15.

Wendy Bernstein's mobile and Maureen Pirog's glass plate are now on view at the Emeriti House.



Individuals may submit up to two works, in all media of visual art: 2-D, 3-D, fiber/textile, digital, mixed media

– if you made it, it counts. Beginning April 4, artwork may be submitted from 8 a.m. to noon and

from 1 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. On April 15, a hand truck, a wagon, and help in carrying awkward objects will be available. Parking vouchers for the garage across the street will be provided, and there is limited parking behind the EH. Complete guidelines and the required art information form are available on the IURA website.

Questions may be addressed to exhibit committee chair **Beau Vallance**, evallanc@gmail.com. Other committee members are **Wendy Bernstein, Laurel Cornell, Elaine Emmi, Phil Emmi, Audrey Heller, BJ Irvine, and Larry Thibos**.

May luncheon scheduled for Meadowood

On May 8, retirees and their guests will celebrate the end of the academic year with a special luncheon buffet in Meadowood's Terrace Room. The IURA's own **Wendy Elliot** will provide background piano music for the event. Retirees and guests may arrive after 11 a.m. and select a seat.

Meadowood will provide bus service from the Center for Exploration of Energy and Matter (formerly the cyclotron) parking area. The buffet starts at 11:30 a.m.

The menu will include salad (butter lettuce, blueberries, toasted pecans, dried cranberries, goat cheese, with lemon balsamic dressing), gluten-free pork tenderloin with apple chutney on the side, baked sweet potato, fresh asparagus with lemon, croissants, and hummingbird cake, which hospitality chair **John Schilb** describes as a banana-pineapple

RESERVATION FOR MAY 8 LUNCHEON

Doors Open 11 a.m., Buffet at 11:30

Terrace Room, Meadowood Retirement Community

PLEASE PRINT Name(s) _____

Please circle this line and initial your choice to pre-order chicken parmesan _____ or spinach quiche _____. All others will have the pork tenderloin with apple chutney.

The cost for each meal is \$25. 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 NO LATER THAN APRIL 29!

Visit our website at iura.indiana.edu Contact us at iura@iu.edu

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

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Bloomington, IN
Permit No. 2

spice cake. He promises that no hummingbirds will be harmed in its preparation.

Those who do not eat pork should specify chicken parmesan or spinach quiche when making their reservations. Water, iced tea, and lemonade will be served at the table, and self-serve coffee will be available.

The cost for each meal is \$25, which includes tax and tip. Reservations must be received by April 29. Because of space limitations, only the first 72 reservations can be accommodated. People whose forms arrive after that number has been reached will be notified and placed on a waiting list.

Thinking about taxes ...

Are you familiar with the Neighborhood Assistance Program? The State of Indiana accepts applications annually from nonprofit organizations that may be eligible for a grant of up to \$15,000 of Neighborhood Assistance credits. Organizations that qualify can ask donors to contribute in exchange for an Indiana tax credit equal to 50 percent of their donation.

Let's say an organization receives approval for \$5,000 in NAP credits. Because it can provide credits for only \$10,000 worth of donations, it has to track gifts carefully. An organization that wants a wide base of donors can limit donations to \$200, the minimum donation to receive NAP credit, allowing a \$100 tax credit per donor. Because of the paperwork, other charities may prefer donations of at least \$500 or \$1,000. An organization is unlikely to give you NAP credits unless you ask for them. The fiscal year

for this program is July 1 to June 30, so it's wise to inquire early in the fiscal year. Many of the big-name organizations have repeat donors who get the credits year after year.

Among Monroe County nonprofit organizations approved for 2023-24 are Amethyst House, Beacon Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, Catholic Charities, Centerstone of Indiana, Citizens for Community Justice, Community Kitchen, Girls Inc., Habitat for Humanity, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, IU Health Bloomington Hospital Foundation, Lotus Education and Arts Foundation, MCCSC Foundation, Meals on Wheels, Middle Way House, Monroe County United Ministries, Monroe County YMCA, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, New Hope Family Shelter, Stone Belt Arc, and Wonder Lab Museum.

The list of organizations approved for 2024-25 may not be available until mid-June. You may use up to \$25,000 in NAP credits each tax year but cannot claim credits in excess of your Indiana tax liability. Some other credits (including donations to the IU Foundation and contributions to 529 plans) are grouped with the NAP credit, and the sum of these may not exceed your tax liability.

About this newsletter

Newswatch is published eight to ten times each year. Send address corrections to database manager **Doris Wittenburg** at dwittenb@iu.edu. For corrections of newsletter content, please contact *Newswatch* editor **Judy Schroeder**, jschroed@iu.edu.