



NEWSWATCH

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March 2017

**Next meeting: 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 12
Peterson Room, Showalter House, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass**

Rob Stone to speak on palliative care



Rob Stone, M.D., will speak about palliative care when retirees gather in April. Dr. Stone is the associate director of IU Health Bloomington Hospice and medical director of the palliative care program. The meeting will be at the IU Foundation on Wed., April 12, at 2 p.m. It will also function as the annual meeting of the IU Retirees Association.

Dr. Stone is director and founder of Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan. He is state coordinator in Indiana for Physicians for a National Health Program and national coordinator for the Divestment Campaign for Healthcare.

An Evansville native, Dr. Stone is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Dartmouth College. He graduated from the University of Colorado Medical School in 1977. His original training was in family practice, but he changed to emergency medicine and worked for 28 years in the emergency department at the Bloomington Hospital. He is board certified in hospice and palliative care medicine.

Annual meeting to feature board election

At the April 12 meeting, the nominating committee will present three candidates for three-year terms on the IURA board. The candidates are **Joe Miller**, **Suzanne Phillips**, and **Carol Stokes**. Suzanne and Carol's terms on the board expire this year and they are up for re-election. **Martha Wailes**, whose term expires this year, has chosen not to seek re-election.

Joe Miller is an emeritus professor in the Kelley School of Business, retiring in 2002. With his wife, Ruth, he is co-president of the University Club. He is also a member of the advisory board of the Emeriti House. He plays the tuba with the Bloomington Community Band and the Bloomington Brass Band.

Suzanne Phillips has four degrees from IU, where she worked for 42 years. From 1991 until her retirement in 2014, she was assistant dean of students and an adviser to the IU Dance Marathon.

After eight years working in Cummins Engine Co.'s employee assistance program, **Carol Stokes** began work at the Office of Admissions in 1989. In 1998 she was chosen to develop and manage the IU Visitor Information Center. She retired in 2011.

Ralf Shaw chaired the nominating committee, which also included **Doris Burton**, **Gerald Marker**, and **Mary Rose**. IURA treasurer **Tom Hustad** will present a financial report. Copies of the 2017 HR brochure targeted specifically for retirees will be available.

Dylan/Gass duo draws record crowd

"Teaching Bob Dylan is like teaching a modern American history course," **Glenn Gass** told more than 100 retirees at the Feb. 8 meeting of the IURA. "Many members of my generation can't separate a sense of our own identity from his music and lyrics." When Gass asked how many people had heard Dylan live in concert, fully 80 percent of the audience raised their hands. That display – and the need to continually bring out more chairs – gave credence to Dylan's popularity among the retiree demographic.

In introducing Gass, IURA Vice President **Doug Porter** elicited hearty laughter when he pointed out a

difference between the professor and his subject: “We invited Glenn to speak, and he showed up.”

“Bob Dylan was constantly in a state of becoming,” Gass said. At the age of 19, in January 1961, he traveled from Minnesota to New York to visit Woody Guthrie, his idol, who was dying of Huntington’s chorea. Throughout his career Dylan was inspired by Guthrie’s example to address eloquently the social issues of his time. The songs Dylan wrote in the 1960s – songs embracing environmentalism and nuclear disarmament – were “beautifully elegant without putting anyone off.”

“Blowin’ in the Wind” instantly became the anthem of the civil rights movement, Gass said. In August 1963 Dylan sang “When the Ship Comes In” at the March on Washington, presenting as inevitable an image of the ship of righteousness pulling into harbor. “Don’t you feel noble just listening to that?” Gass asked, describing Dylan as “a voice of moral authority.”

During the Cuban missile crisis, “at a time when our reality was a black cloud,” Dylan wrote “A Hard Rain’s Gonna Fall.” He expressed a more optimistic hope for a new order in “The Times They Are A-Changin’.” But after John Kennedy’s assassination, he stopped singing that song. The world was in chaos, and for Dylan there would be no more protest songs, no more folk guitar.

As he moved away from folk, Dylan’s songs “showed us what pop could be,” Gass said. His transition to electronic guitar and to a more pop-rock persona resulted in his being booed off the stage at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965. But a wider public embraced him. The Beatles loved and were influenced by him. “Like a Rolling Stone,” Bruce Springsteen said, “kicked open the doorway of your mind.”

Dylan’s lyrics are often enigmatic, and some of his songs are 17 minutes long. Gass recited many of those lyrics from memory, contending that Dylan “isn’t literature. He’s better.” The 2016 Nobel Prize winner followed his muse wherever it led, and his commitment to his art was – and is – absolute.

“I teach a whole semester on Bob Dylan,” said Gass, whose courses on rock and pop music were the first to be offered through a music school. In earlier years students used to tell him their parents love Bob Dylan. Now it’s their grandparents.

The IU Emeriti House co-sponsored the program, and retirees seemed willing to extend the afternoon encounter indefinitely by peppering the personable Gass with questions and comments. One enthusiastic listener encouraged Gass to make a video series that could be placed on YouTube to educate young people to Dylan’s genius. Gass responded, “I would dearly love to, but there are all sorts of copyright issues.”

Another audience member asserted that Dylan is selfish and mean to women. “He is famous for using people and throwing them away,” Gass agreed, but it is precisely “the bitterness in some of his songs that makes them extraordinary.”

To Gass, Dylan is a polite Minnesota boy who has gotten a bad rap for being distant. That distance was necessary for his survival.

When a listener expressed her dislike for Dylan’s religious period, Gass conceded, “It did seem kind of ridiculous for a Jewish kid from Minnesota to become an evangelical Bible-thumping born-again Christian.” On the other hand, Dylan “really believed for those three albums, and ‘Precious Angel’ is a beautiful song.”

In response to Dylan’s critics, Gass said, “It’s the music that counts. Cut him some slack because he’s a genius. The day he dies a light will go out in the world.”

*Thank you to **Inta Carpenter** for her collaboration on this summary of Gass’s presentation.*

A moving letter

*From 2001 to 2004 **Bob Dodd** was secretary of the IU Annuitants Association, the precursor of the IURA, and editor of Newswatch, its newsletter. In 2009 he accepted appointment as IURA historian, a role he has filled ever since. In 2004 he wrote the first history of the IU Annuitants Association, a history he updated in 2009. It is available on the IURA website, <http://www.indiana.edu/~iura>. Bob’s new address: Montebello Retirement Community, 10500 Academy Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. The Montebello telephone number is 505-294-9944.*

I would like to let my many friends in the IU Retirees Association know that I will be leaving in mid-April to move to a retirement center in Albuquerque, N.M., to be near family. I want to thank all of my Retiree

friends for their support and friendship during my many years as a member of the organization. I hope to return to Bloomington from time to time and will look forward to visiting you. Letters and phone calls to Albuquerque will also be welcome.

■ *Bob Dodd*

15th annual exhibit seeks submissions



Retirees and their spouses or partners are invited to submit art for the 15th annual Emeriti House/IURA annual art exhibit. The organizing committee welcomes submissions in any art medium. Works in a medium that has been underrepresented in the past – collage, woodwork, sculpture in various materials, pottery, and textiles (including weaving, needlepoint, knitting, and embroidery) – are especially welcome.

Works should be submitted at Emeriti House on Monday, May 1, between 9 and 11 a.m. Individual contributors may submit from one to three works of art. Art should be submitted ready to be exhibited, ready to be hung if to be shown in that way. A label on the back of the piece should state the name of the submitter; if for sale, the price; if not for sale, “NFS”; the medium; and the title of the piece if there is one. Longtime IURA member **B.J. Irvine**, whose painting appears above, chairs the organizing committee. Address questions to her at irvine@indiana.edu. Other committee members are **Jerry Chertkoff, Audrey Heller, Ed McEndarfer, Ruth Miller, Bob Talbot, Beau Vallance, and John Woodcock**.

The opening reception is Friday, May 5, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Emeriti House, 1015 E. Atwater Ave. For information about the programs of the Emeriti House, see www.indiana.edu/~emeriti.

One woman’s guide to downsizing

Last year at this time your editor was in the midst of downsizing. In a six-week period I bought a condo and sold the house I’d lived in for 45 years. It had five bedrooms and a full – *very* full – basement. **Don**

Granbois, then the treasurer of the IURA, and his wife, Judy, had downsized just a few months before us, in similarly speedy fashion selling their home without its ever having been listed. His advice proved helpful, and these random notes may be of use to retirees who find themselves downsizing.

First of all, unload everything you can on family, friends, and relatives. Don and Judy’s daughter took a number of things to sell on the Internet. Personal effects are the hardest items to part with. I sent photos and letters to my brother, cousins, and nieces. I went through numerous photo albums with my son-in-law, culling photos for him to scan and place in an electronic file.

Don told me he sold his lawnmower to Scotty’s at 3901 S. Walnut near Rohrer Road. He also said that Furniture Exchange (812-334-1236) and The Warehouse (812-350-3451) buy and pick up furniture, but “don’t expect a lot of cash.”

We opted out of the popular garage sale route. Instead we made untold trips to local nonprofit agencies. We obtained a receipt at each location and are reporting gifts in kind on our tax return. Historic items went to the Monroe County History Center, for the mother of all garage sales that is held each June. Teachers Warehouse, at 524 N. Fairview, is a worthy recipient for children’s books, art supplies, and items from your home office. You can ask them (812-929-7522) about computers and printers too.

Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard at 1100 W. Allen takes flowerpots and garden tools. Habitat for Humanity’s ReStore (812-331-2660) will pick up such materials, as well as building materials, appliances, tools, rugs, and furniture.

ReStore’s truck made regular stops at our house, as did the Society of St. Vincent DePaul (812-961-1510). Don told me that St. Vincent DePaul is the only place that accepts mattresses, which can’t be sold but can be given away, as this charity does. We contributed four beds, four mattresses, pillows, and lots of bedding, as well as furniture and appliances.

Clothing can go to one of numerous thrift shops in Bloomington – Bloomington Thrift Shop, My Sister’s Closet, Salvation Army, Goodwill. We chose to make regular trips to Opportunity House, 907 W. 11th St., which is also a good place for giving away linens, housewares, toys, and sporting goods.

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

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Books and magazines can go to the Monroe County Public Library or to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, the successor to the Red Cross in sponsoring the annual book fair. Drop by the food bank at its 2333 W. Industrial Park Drive home from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Both locations also accept CDs, DVDs, records, games, and puzzles. If you are disposing of a large academic book collection, you can ask Academic Scholarly Books (812-345-2490) to buy them and haul them away.

Let's be honest: downsizing is an exhausting endeavor. An 86-year-old friend told me, "It just about killed me." She inspired me to do it now because I'm not getting any younger. It's worth it in the end. Not once has my husband or I said, "I sure miss those stairs!"

IU Speech and Hearing Clinic exams now covered by Medicare (sort of)

Effective January 1, 2017, the IU Speech and Hearing Clinic has been certified as a Medicare provider. What this means for IU retirees is that hearing exams, ordered by a doctor or other health care professional, are covered by Medicare, with billing and insurance paperwork handled by the clinic. Medicare covers all but 20 percent of the Medicare-approved amount, and the rest may be paid by a Medicare supplement policy, such as Anthem Blue, which has a \$50 per year allowance for hearing exams. Medicare, however, does not cover hearing

aids or fitting exams, nor do most Medicare supplemental plans.

■ **Bruce Jaffee**, *IURA Benefits Chair*

United Way: the news just gets better

In a stunning display of generosity, retirees contributed nearly a quarter of the total amount raised in individual donations to the 2016-17 United Way campaign.

The January newsletter announced that the IURA had exceeded its United Way goal, raising \$174,367. As of March 15 the total was \$188,210, more than 110 percent of the \$170,000 goal. The number of donors increased from 203 to 219, and the number of Vanguardians (those pledging \$1,000 or more) increased from 79 to 87. **Wain Martin** says it best: "Go Retirees!"

The United Way campaign surpassed its goal of \$800,000, raising \$803,130 for its 25 member agencies. What good news for the community!

About this newsletter

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