



# NEWSWATCH

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April 2020

## Next regular meeting: Who knows?

### A message from the president

I hope this message finds all of our IU family safe and secure. The news about the current health crisis has been unrelenting and, for the most part, depressing. It appears that the restrictions on our daily life will continue for the unforeseeable future.

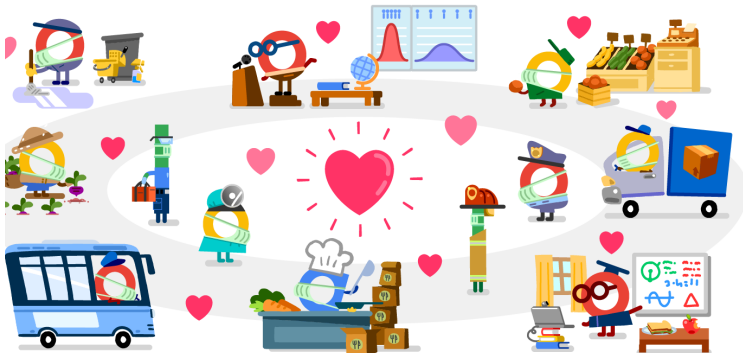
As we await a return to normality, all IU Retirees Association events and board activities have been cancelled. As a country and community we share a certainty that we will prevail, but our future “new normal” will certainly be different in ways we cannot imagine. When it is safe and appropriate, we will assess the new reality and notify you when we can resume our activities.

At this time it is imperative to protect yourself and your loved ones, assist your neighbors and the community whenever possible, and heed the recommendations of the health care professionals. I look forward to celebrating with all of you when we can again consider our life to be normal and routine. Until then, stay safe and in good health.

– **Doug Porter**  
*President, IU Retirees Association*

### Thanks to those who keep us going ...

*Courtesy of Google Doodle:*



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### COVID testing and treatment covered; minimum distribution not required

In a recent email, **Jim Sherman**, who serves as faculty liaison to University Human Resource Services, reported good news on three fronts.

First, according to Cristan Royer, director of benefits at HRS, “The Blue Retiree plan will provide 100 percent coverage for COVID testing and treatment. This means whatever is not covered by Medicare would be covered by the Blue Retiree plan with no cost share. We believe most will be covered by Medicare, but in case not, the Blue Retiree plan will cover the remainder.”

Second, “RMDs for 2020 have been suspended.” As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently passed by Congress, retirees may forgo withdrawing money from their accounts. Because required minimum distributions are based on the value of the account at the end of the previous year, retirees would have had to withdraw based on the value of their accounts on Dec. 31, 2019, when the Dow was at 28,462. Without the waiver, therefore, retirees would have had to withdraw a larger percentage of the balance and pay taxes on a value that no longer exists.

It is important to note, however, that only about 20 percent of retirees withdraw only the minimum. Even though RMDs are waived, retirees can still withdraw any amount they need from their retirement savings.

Jim’s third point concerns charitable giving. “The CARES Act allows taxpayers to deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions even if the taxpayer takes the standard deduction in 2020,” he writes.

“Furthermore, for those who itemize deductions, charitable deductions have been limited in a particular year to 50 percent of the taxpayer’s adjusted gross income. For 2020 that percentage has been increased to 100 percent.”

## 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. Please notify me ([jschroed@indiana.edu](mailto:jschroed@indiana.edu), 812-332-5057) of any omissions. Thank you.*

*Judy Schroeder, Newswatch Editor*

**Robert “Bob” Agranoff** died Nov. 14, 2019, in Bloomington. He was 83. Bob was born in Minneapolis. After receiving his bachelor’s degree from University of Wisconsin-River Falls, he earned his master’s and doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh, becoming an avid fan of Pittsburgh athletics. Bob joined the IU faculty in 1980 and retired in 2001 as professor emeritus of public administration at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. A nationally recognized expert on the integration of public human services programs, he contributed to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging and helped develop the allied services approach within the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Department of Health and Human Services. In the 1990s he was a primary consultant to the Indiana governor’s human services agency reorganization committee. He served as a consultant in Ukraine, Australia, and South Africa and since 1990 was affiliated with the government and public administration program of a university in Madrid. In 2011 he was named a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Susan Klein, professor emerita of special education.

**Lawrence “Larry” Davis** died in Bloomington on Oct. 7, 2019. He was 96. Larry was born in Lafayette, Ind., and studied piano as a youth. He served in the U.S. Army in England and France. After earning two degrees at IU – a bachelor’s in 1948 and an MBA in 1950 – he became manager of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. In 1956 he was hired to manage the IU Auditorium, from which he retired in 1987. In that role he invited some of the world’s greatest artists to perform at IU and arranged annual visits by the Metropolitan Opera. An avid supporter of the arts, Larry served on the boards of the Friends of Music, the Bloomington Area Arts Council, Theatre Circle, and the National Society of Arts and Letters. He was a 55-year member of Kiwanis International.

**James Robert “Bob” Dodd** died Sept. 15, 2019, in Albuquerque, N.M. He was 85. Bob was born in Bloomington and earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in geology at IU. After receiving his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology, Bob worked at the Texaco Research Laboratories in Houston for two years. In 1963 he joined the faculty at Case Western Reserve University. He returned to IU in 1966, retiring in 1997. Coauthor of a textbook on paleoecology, he also served as chair of the department of geological sciences. An avid runner and bicyclist, he was also a gardener famous for his roses. He enjoyed birding with fellow members of the Sassafras Audubon Society. He volunteered with the Monroe County Historical Society, the American Red Cross, and the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. He was an elder and trustee at First Presbyterian Church. He traveled all over the world, returning from Romania just weeks before his death. Bob was secretary of the IU Annuitants Association, the precursor of the IURA, from 2001 to 2004 and in that capacity edited *Newswatch*. From 2009 until he resigned in 2017 to move to Albuquerque to be close to his sons, Bob served as IURA historian.

**Beth Van Vorst Greene Gray** died Feb. 24 in Bloomington. She was 86. Born in Harvey, Ill., she graduated from high school in Evansville and attended IU. She worked variously with Mead Johnson Co. and the Indiana State Geological Survey before her passion for politics led her to becoming principal secretary of the Indiana State Senate. Beth was an ardent advocate for Indiana’s ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1977. After serving as administrative assistant for lawyers in Noblesville and Indianapolis, she created a placement service for attorneys. In 1995 she became administrative assistant to the head of the IUPUI Library. Upon moving to Bloomington in 2009, she continued her writing and took up painting in oil and acrylics. She is survived by her husband of 17 years, Ralph D. Gray, professor emeritus of history at IUPUI.

**Phillip Likins “Phil” Henson** died Jan. 4 in Bloomington. He was 74. He was born in Springfield, Mo. Upon graduating from the University of Missouri, he taught high school science and coached track. He earned his master’s and Ph.D. at IU and coached at Central Connecticut State University and the University of Wisconsin. In 1980 he returned to IU as a faculty member in HPER. Phil also was assistant track and field coach and cross-country coach under Sam Bell. He directed the track and field portion of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. He

retired from the Department of Kinesiology in 2013. Phil loved trains and tractors and kept two tractors at his Bloomington home.

**Harriet Jodi Hollowitz** died in Bloomington on March 19. She was 83. Born in Indianapolis, Jodi graduated from Stephens College in Missouri before returning to Richmond, Ind., to work in her father's dress shop. She then moved to Indianapolis, where she worked for the Indiana Department of Tourism. She returned to Bloomington to work at the IU Alumni Association, first as secretary to the executive director and then as a director of some constituent societies. She retired in 1998. She enjoyed antiquing and collected green glassware. An IU basketball fan with an interest in Indiana history, Jodi enjoyed reading a book with a cat in her lap.

**Peter Jacobi** died in Bloomington on Dec. 24, 2019. He was 89. Born in Berlin, Germany, Peter came to the U.S. at age 8. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Northwestern University. After Army service, he joined Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, where he taught from 1955 until 1981, serving as associate dean. In 1997 he was a member of the inaugural class of the Medill Hall of Achievement. Over the years he wrote hundreds of columns, articles, and reviews for *World Book*, the *Bloomington Herald-Times*, and the *Chicago Daily News*. Peter was a long-time faculty member of the Highlights Foundation, beginning with its first Writers Workshop at Chautauqua, N.Y. In 1985 he became a professor of journalism at IU, and in 2006 he received the School of Continuing Studies' Teaching Excellence Award. Peter chaired the Indiana Arts Commission from 1990 to 1993 and also served on the Bloomington Arts Commission. He wrote three books, including *The Messiah Book: The Life and Times of G.F. Handel's Greatest Hit*.

**Joseph Rezits** died Nov. 15, 2019, in Bloomington. He was 94. Born in New York State, he received an artist's diploma at the Curtis Institute of Music and went on to earn two music degrees at the University of Illinois. He later earned a doctor of musical arts degree at the University of Colorado. Joe taught first at New Jersey State College but moved to Bloomington in 1963 to teach at the IU School of Music. He was co-author of *The Pianist's Resource Guide: Piano Music in Print and Literature on the Pianistic Art* and also wrote *Guitarist's Resource Guide*. As a pianist Joe traveled throughout the world, performing, lecturing, and teaching. He retired

as professor emeritus in 1990 but continued to perform. He is survived by his wife, Norma Beversdorf-Rezits; they were married in 2012.

**Kenneth Rogers** died in Bloomington on Dec. 6, 2019. He was 82. Born in Union, N.J., he received his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and a graduate degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1961. After serving nearly five years in the Foreign Service in Burma (now Myanmar), he returned to the U.S. to become director of the international office at Washington University in St. Louis. In 1978 he became associate dean of international services and programs at IU, a position he held until his retirement in 2002. He received the Homer Higbee award from the National Association of Foreign Student Affairs and was named a Sagamore of the Wabash and a Distinguished Hoosier. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church. Ken enjoyed reading, writing, and painting. Eleanor, his wife of 53 years, survives.

**Robert "Bob" Stoll** died Jan. 26 in Bloomington. He was 90. Born in Rochester, N.Y., he received his bachelor of music degree from the State University of New York at Fredonia. After serving two years as a Special Services director in the U.S. Army, he completed a master's degree at Syracuse University. He taught high school and directed community theater before coming to IU to pursue doctoral studies at the School of Music. He joined the faculty in 1963 and retired in 1995. He taught in the departments of choral conducting, music education, and opera production. For 32 years he directed the Singing Hoosiers, establishing a partnership with the Cincinnati Pops that led to concerts, recordings (including two Grammy nominations), and a concert in Carnegie Hall. Bob served as music director for more than 30 IU musical theater productions. For 24 years he was music director for the adult choirs at First Christian Church. In retirement he served as music director and conductor of the Bloomington Pops Orchestra. He was named a Sagamore of the Wabash and a Distinguished Hoosier. Christel, his wife of 67 years, survives.

**Susan Wallace Hays Voelkel** died Jan. 23 in Bloomington. She was 86. Born in Terre Haute, she graduated from IU's School of Journalism. She moved to New York, took a job with *Time* as a researcher, and began work for a master's degree in political science at Columbia University. She

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worked part time for a newspaper in Northfield, Minn., before returning to Bloomington as writer, managing editor, and editor of the IU News Bureau. She was a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Tri Kappa, Pi Beta Phi, and 19th Century Club. An avid traveler, Susan enjoyed gardening, sewing, crafting, reading, and writing short stories.

**Zetta Ann Franklin Anderson Weaver** died July 20, 2019, in Bloomington. She was 91. Born on a farm in Emporia, Ind., she grew up in Bloomington, the eldest child of longtime IU treasurer and vice president J.A. Franklin. She earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from IU and, after receiving an MAT, was a lecturer/instructor in that department from 1966 to 1972. She later owned Wiley Interior Design and was an interior designer for the Halls of Residence. In 1980 Zetta Ann was elected secretary of the Association of University Interior Designers. Famous for designing and embroidering wall hangings and pillows, she was an artist in textiles. She was a member of Tri Kappa and of Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. She was crowned queen for the day at Meadowood's Mardi Gras party in 2015.

**Robert "Bob" Woodley** died Nov. 15, 2019, in Bloomington. He was 89. Born in Los Angeles, Bob earned a degree in physics at UCLA. After completing Army service, he earned a master's degree at Iowa State College. He worked as a physical science associate at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, N.Y., for 10 years. Committed to civil rights, Bob participated in the March on Washington in 1963. In 1969 he became assistant to the director of the division of biological

sciences at IU. For 25 years he served in several administrative positions at IU, finally at the Cyclotron Facility, until his retirement in 1994. At the age of 60 he made up his mind to learn French and was part of the Overseas Study Program in France. A man of many interests, he was a naturalist who enjoyed running, camping, genealogy, travel, IU Cinema, and sports. His wife of 23 years, Judy, who was an administrative assistant in several offices in Bryan Hall, survives.

### **Apply to vote by mail on June 2**

Don't put it off. Voters do not need to give a reason to request to vote by mail in the June 2 Indiana primary. Simply fill out the form on the Voter Registration page for your county, and return it well before the May 21 deadline. (Remember Wisconsin!)

**Heard around town: With COVID-19, I'm getting three weeks to the gallon.**

### **About this newsletter**

*Newswatch* is published eight times each year, August through April, except for February. This is the last issue of the 2019-20 academic year. Send corrections or comments to **Judy Schroeder** at [jschroed@indiana.edu](mailto:jschroed@indiana.edu). To correct your address, please contact database manager **Doris Wittenburg**, [dwittenb@indiana.edu](mailto:dwittenb@indiana.edu).