



NEWSWATCH

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November 2020

**Next meeting: 2 p.m., Wednesday, December 9
via Zoom**

William Morris: Looking forward

Many know him as Brother William, host of WFIU's "Soul Kitchen," but **William Morris** is a man of many talents. When retirees gather on Zoom on Dec. 9, William will share his vision for the future. "In this year when we celebrate the centennial of women finally earning the privilege of being able to vote," he says, "I want to look forward, to discuss how we can use the privilege we have to help our fellow Americans."



Lawyer, disk jockey, Episcopal deacon, William says his presentation will incorporate law, music, and faith. His faith is his bedrock and his beacon, grounding him and guiding him. His love of music made him volunteer at WFHB for five years, hosting such programs as "Hora Latina" and "The

Jazz Menagerie" before moving to WFIU. His commitment to social justice has led him, after several years at Indiana Legal Services, to establish his own law practice, specializing in housing and employment discrimination and civil rights.

When William was born in Terre Haute, Indiana's anti-miscegenation laws were still in place. (They were overturned in 1965, just two years before *Loving v. Virginia*.) Unable to marry, his mother,

who was white, and his father, who was Black and Native American, gave him up for adoption. After a year and a half in foster care, William was adopted by a Black couple and moved to South Bend. When his second father became national director of housing for the NAACP, the family moved to Newark, N.J.

William attended Lehigh University in eastern Pennsylvania on a football scholarship and graduated with a journalism degree. He went to Howard University for a master's degree in communication. ("But really," he said in an interview with Michael Glab, "that was more of a master's in Blackness.") He earned a law degree from the University of North Carolina, with summer internships in legal services. He also edited a newsletter for a blues society.

William worked as a lawyer for several years and then lived in Guatemala and Mexico, working with children, teaching English, and doing church work. In 2005 he came to Bloomington and is now rooted in the community. Please come to hear him on Dec. 9.

More at Will Murphy's 2016 radio interview, <https://indianapublicmedia.org/profiles/jazz-host-attorney-william-morris.php>, and Michael Glab's 2018 *Limestone Post* article, <https://www.limestonepostmagazine.com/big-mikes-b-town-william-morris-always-teaching/>

Nearly halfway to United Way goal

IURA Secretary **Perry Maull** announced that, as of Nov. 10, 82 people had contributed \$135,275 toward the United Way goal of \$275,000. "IU retirees are one of the leaders of the campaign," Perry said. "And you can do it online" (monroeunitedway.org).

Others on the IURA's United Way team are **Jim Grandorf** and **Eileen Schellhammer**.

Ted Carmines on 2020 election: Looking back, looking forward

Just a week after the 2020 election, **Edward G. Carmines**, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, presented his keen insights to more than 60 people attending the IURA's Nov. 11 Zoom meeting. Ted's talk ranged widely. Among his topics:

- the very different campaigns the candidates waged,
- the reasons Donald Trump won in 2016 and lost in 2020, and
- the challenges facing both political parties.

The campaigns. President Trump ran a conventional campaign. His attitude was, "We just happen to be in a pandemic, but what difference does that make?" Joe Biden "campaigned in a way we'd never seen before," Ted said: "low-key, health-oriented, with very small events." Those differences may have affected the polls. "Not only were they off, as in 2016, but they were off dramatically," Ted pointed out. Biden never got close to his projected eight to 12 point advantage.

Why Trump won – and lost. In 2016 Trump won six states that Mitt Romney had lost in 2012: Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. He performed well in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, states that have among the highest proportion of white populists in the country. He ran as a moderate, an economic populist, promising bigger, better health care, an increase in the minimum wage, and an end to Wall Street's stranglehold.

But once elected, Ted said, Trump did not govern as an economic populist but as a conventional conservative Republican. His tax cuts benefited big business and top earners, with a redistribution of income upward. Ted posited two possible explanations. Although Trump is a cultural and social populist, perhaps he never believed in economic populism. Or perhaps he lacked the political skill and courage to challenge classic Republican conservatism and simply fell in line.

In 2020 Trump may have lost three crucial states he had won in 2016 because he did not govern as an economic populist. The conventional wisdom, Ted pointed out, is that Trump lost because of his mishandling of COVID-19. But he faced a more popular candidate this year than in 2016. Voters who disliked both candidates in 2016 chose Trump over

Hillary Clinton. But in 2020 voters who didn't favor either candidate went for Biden.

Challenges facing parties. Now the Republicans must figure out how to deal with Trump and Trumpism. Because of the intense loyalty of his base, they can't afford to anger or disavow him. "They may speak in more tender tones," Ted said, "but they are likely to stay within Trump's orbit."

Unlike many losing candidates who have faded into the background, Trump wants to remain in the spotlight. "His Twitter feed will not go dead," Ted observed wryly.

Democrats face challenges of their own. "They have difficulty talking to less educated white voters," Ted said. "They have trouble speaking and listening."

Democrats are caught up in a debate about the political and policy agendas of the left of the party and its moderates. "Biden will need them to come together if the party has any chance for success," Ted said. If not, Mitch McConnell "will see this as an opportunity to limit the president to one term."

In his newest book, *Beyond the Left-Right Divide: Ideological Diversity and the Future of American Politics*, Ted and his co-authors outline the changing ideological support of five groups:

- Conservatives, who favor limited government and are against abortion, gun control, and major domestic spending;
- Liberals, who favor a major role for government and laws protecting vulnerable populations;
- Libertarians, who oppose government interference in personal, family, and business decisions;
- Populists, who want to limit immigration and programs that benefit the urban poor; and
- Moderates.

In answer to a question from **Bill McGregor** about progressives, Ted said historically progressives have been treated as liberals. But progressivism may become differentiated from liberalism as the 21st century progresses.

When retirees asked his opinion of the Electoral College, Ted said, "It has outlived its usefulness." It's unlikely, however, to change. Republicans don't want to dilute the power of the Electoral College, which favors rural states with smaller populations.

In answer to **Wendy Bernstein**'s question, "Is there any way Biden can tamp down white supremacist influence?" Ted said, "We underestimate Biden in many ways. He increases the possibilities for more civil discourse in the country." But open racist rhetoric thrives on social media. "Once it's been brought to the surface," Ted said, "it's very hard to force it underground again."

Recommending Pete Buttigieg's new book, **Doug Bauder** raised the issue of trust. "The lack of trust has undermined any potential for bipartisanship," Ted said. "Biden has a chance to re-establish trust, but some Republicans have to meet him somewhere." He remains "hard-nosed but hopeful."

IURA President **Charlie Matson** presided, gathering members' questions and presenting them to the speaker. **Judy Schroeder** introduced Ted Carmines.

Video links to past programs available

As long as the IU Retirees Association is meeting on Zoom, webmaster **Allan Edmonds** is posting links to on the website for those who are unable to attend a program. Links to available recordings can be found on the Events page at iura.indiana.edu. For your

convenience, here are direct links to the two most-recent recordings:

November meeting with Edward Carmines:

<https://bit.ly/38ygE4F>

October meeting with Gerardo Gonzalez:

<https://bit.ly/3liyZpY>

Membership directory out in December

Paid members of the IURA – they numbered 416 as of Nov. 15 – will be mailed a membership directory with their December *Newswatch*. The directory gives names, street addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses for members who have chosen to share that information.

The directory is distributed *only* to members. If you are *not* an IURA member, you must return the membership form below to be included in the directory. **The deadline is Nov. 30.** Information about your membership status is on your mailing label.

For address corrections, please contact IURA database manager **Doris Wittenburg**, dwittenb@indiana.edu. Send comments or corrections to *Newswatch* editor **Judy Schroeder**, jschroed@indiana.edu.

IU Retirees Association 2020-21 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

For couple membership, spouse's/partner's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ 9-digit ZIP code _____

Telephone(s) _____ Email(s) _____

Check if applicable: I do not want my telephone number email included in the membership directory.

When possible, I wish to receive the newsletter by email rather than in paper form.

(Please include email address on membership form so that you receive meeting reminders and special notices.)

Enclosed is my check, made payable to IU Retirees Association, for:

_____ Single membership (\$20)

_____ Couple membership (\$30)

Please mail this form with your check to

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

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Guest column: Pandemic planning

Four years ago, when I contributed some ideas for *Newswatch*, I wrote, “Bloomington can feel like everything has shut down just when grandchildren arrive for the holidays.”

This year many things are, in fact, closed. But there is something new: an outdoor, socially distanced opportunity to get out, show off the campus and Bloomington, and enjoy a unique cultural event.

I’m talking about the Walkabout Radio Plays (radio plays via walking tours) provided by Cardinal Stage. There are four, the first two set on the IU campus, the third on the Courthouse Square, and the fourth on the B-Line Trail. Each is 40 to 50 minutes long, with maps provided. Even stay-at-homes can participate.

The Walkabout Radio Plays will be available until the end of 2020. “Once you purchase, save the email confirmation and you can access the plays at any time,” says Cassie Hakken, Cardinal’s marketing manager. Information at <https://cardinalstage.org/>

Other close-by outdoor activities, surprising and excellent any time:

- ***Sculpture Trails Outdoor Museum***, in Solsberry; if you haven’t been (and even if you have), GO: <http://www.sculpturetrails.com/>
- The ***Exotic Feline Rescue Center***, a 50-minute drive; reservations required: <https://efrc.org/visit>

- The ***Tulip Trestle***, a rail trestle in Greene County with a half-mile of track in the air; no walk or tour: <http://www.visitgc.com/where-to-go/innovation/tulip-trestle/>

And what if the relatives *don’t* come or there is cold rain? Cardinal offers a special do-it-yourself Thanksgiving comedy, a play for four to 12 performers that would work well on Zoom or in person. See <https://cardinalstage.org/at-home/>

■ **Martha Wailes**

IU Athletics earn high rankings

At the Nov. 11 IURA meeting President **Charlie Matson** announced gleefully that, after winning three Big Ten games, IU’s football team ranked 10th in the nation. And the preseason ranking of women’s basketball teams had IU at No. 16.

Another ranking of note came from *Golfweek* magazine, which placed the Ned Pfau Course at No. 4, near the top of its annual list of the top 30 campus golf courses. IU vaulted over the seven Big Ten courses that had been on last year’s list. The new course, designed by Steve Smyers and Indiana golf legend Fuzzy Zoeller, opened this June.

**If you are not an IURA member,
this is your last newsletter.
Join today!**