



NEWSWATCH

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January 2024

**Next meeting: Tuesday, February 14♥, at 2 p.m.
Peterson Room, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass, or on Zoom**

Priest to talk about communities' response to climate crisis



“The climate crisis is here, now.” So says **Chad Priest**, vice president of the American Red Cross Southwest and Rocky Mountain Division. When retirees gather on Valentine’s Day, Priest will discuss the ways in which the American Red Cross is working with communities across the

United States to support resiliency and build capacity to respond to catastrophic climate-related disasters. He will also describe the ways in which his journey at IU prepared him to support the work of thousands of staff and volunteers on the front lines of the climate crisis.

Priest is an adjunct professor of emergency medicine at IU’s School of Medicine, where he co-founded the Disaster Medicine Fellowship program. He has a master’s degree in community health nursing from IU as well as an undergraduate degree. He then went on to earn a law degree from George Washington University. He practiced public health and health care law in Indianapolis before becoming CEO of the American Red Cross-Indiana. An Air Force veteran, Priest oversees humanitarian operations in nine regions covering 12 states.

Visit the IURA website to register for Zoom.

The Eclipse Is Coming



Pilachowski describes April eclipse

Bloomington’s population is expected to swell to more than 300,000 on April 8, when a total solar eclipse will occur. Although there is a total eclipse every 18 months on average, only every 375 years or so will a given spot on Earth experience a total eclipse. Bloomington will be a prime spot on April 8, **Caty Pilachowski** told about 100 enthralled retirees, meeting on Zoom and at the IU Foundation’s Peterson Room on Jan. 10.

About the eclipse

Distinguished Professor and Daniel Kirkwood Chair of Astronomy, Professor Pilachowski described a solar eclipse as a “compelling, moving experience, underscoring our own human connection to the universe.”

“Never look directly at the sun,” she warned. She recommended using a solar eclipse viewer or eclipse glasses instead. “Looking at even a partially covered sun before or after totality with

binoculars or a telescope will cause damage to your eyes. Just don't!"

During totality, the sun's chromosphere and prominences may be visible, she said, and when it gets dark, you can see the sun's corona. She recommended the American Astronomical Society's website, <https://eclipse.aas.org>, for more information. The "Totality" app available for your iPhone or Android will give details on the path and time of the eclipse. Using the SolarSnapKit, you can take photos without damaging your camera.

Bloomington specifics

In Bloomington the eclipse will begin at 1:49 p.m. and end at 4:22 p.m. The total eclipse will begin around 3:04 p.m. and will last for an exciting four-plus minutes.

There is only a 40 percent chance that the day will be clear, Pilachowski said, but even on a cloudy day there will be much to observe. "Look for changes in temperature, darkness, and the horizon," she advised. Clouds will darken from south to north. "All five naked-eye planets [Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn] will be lined up," she said. "Chickens will come home to roost," and flowers will close.

During the 2017 total eclipse, temperatures in Hopkinsville, Ky., a popular viewing location, dropped four degrees. But a drop of up to 20 degrees is possible, so, she advised, "be sure to have a jacket."

Pilachowski said the best place to view the eclipse is in your own back yard. She emphasized just how crowded Bloomington might be. "Traffic will be horrendous," she said, especially after totality. Hotel rooms already are hard to get and very expensive. IU and the MCCSC have cancelled in-person classes. "Don't make appointments for that day, or plan to run errands or eat out," she advised.

IU and the Bloomington community have scheduled a variety of events before and after the

eclipse. The astronomy department is working with the Luddy School to livestream the event from Kirkwood Observatory. "We are training an army of students to serve as interpreters," Pilachowski said. For details on IU's plans, go to eclipse.iu.edu.

She complimented the Visitors Center for its work. "They have done a wonderful job," she said. Numerous special events are planned for the days leading up to the eclipse and the day itself. See visitbloomington.com/eclipse. The Monroe County History Center already has opened an exhibit that compares this eclipse to the one in 1869, which Theophilus Wylie, Daniel Kirkwood, and Elisha Ballantine viewed from the rooftop of Wylie House.



Wendy Elliot and Barry Magee chat after the Jan. 10 IURA meeting. Wendy will provide background piano music at the May 14 IURA luncheon.

Pilachowski explained a number of strategies for observing the eclipse, from making your own cereal-box viewing device to looking at it through a colander to putting out a white sheet to observe shadow bands before and after totality. Instructions are readily available on the internet.

She recommended solar eclipse viewers because they are easy to store and to use. Among reputable companies producing them are Thousand Oaks Optical, Rainbow Symphony, and American Paper Wear, she said. "The astronomy department will also distribute eclipse viewers on some Saturdays in February or

March,” Pilachowski wrote in an email. “Check the IU Events Calendar for dates.”

In introducing the speaker, IURA Program Chair **Tony Mescher** summarized her “stellar career.” After the event, IURA Vice President **Perry Maull** observed, “I really was impressed by the presentation. I have told friends they need to watch it online.” A video recording of this and many other IURA presentations can be accessed from the IURA website, which also includes more photos from the Jan. 10 meeting.

Sally Dunn and **Linda Harl** welcomed retirees at the sign-in table.

Remembering Martha Smiley

Martha J. Smiley, who until last May was hospitality chair of the IURA, died unexpectedly on Jan. 1 in Bloomington. She was 91. Martha earned a bachelor’s degree in home economics from Ohio State University before becoming the clinical dietitian at Memorial Hospital in St. Joseph, Mich.



Martha retired in 1999 after 27 years of service to IU’s Halls of Residence, where she was food stores manager, administrative dietitian, area food service coordinator, and foods manager. In retirement she volunteered at Opportunity House and

WonderLab. She enjoyed reading, Bunco, and traveling. Long active in University Club activities, Martha joined the board of the IU Retirees Association in 2020 and chaired the hospitality committee throughout her three-year term.

“When Martha took on a responsibility, you knew it would be done thoroughly and well,” says IURA President **Joyce Krothe**. “She was gracious, kind, and efficient, with a wonderful smile.”

Welcome, new members!

Several people have joined or renewed since the IURA directory was mailed with the December *Newswatch*. Because this newsletter, unlike the directory, is available in electronic form and is therefore accessible to the public, telephone numbers have not been included.

Botne, Robert, 1414 Richland Dr., Bloomington, 47408-9754, robot72@zoho.com

Gottlieb, Steven, 2310 E. Queens Way, Bloomington, 47401-6850, sg@iu.edu

Hillier, Jan A, address withheld by request, jhillier@indiana.edu; janhillier@earthlink.net

Impey, Olga T & Michael H, 1033 S. Hawthorne Dr., Bloomington, 47401-6090, impey@iu.edu

Irvine, BJ, 1902 E. Windsor Dr., Bloomington, 47401-6765, irvine@indiana.edu

Please correct the email address for **Rita Oates** that is in the directory. The correct address is ritaoates@gmail.com.

Doris Wittenburg, IURA database manager, compiles the directory each year. Please send corrections to her at dwittenb@indiana.edu. If you did not receive a copy of the directory or have misplaced it, please contact *Newswatch* editor **Judy Schroeder** at jschroed@indiana.edu. Only members are eligible to receive a directory.

A preview of coming attractions

Several retirees at the Jan. 10 IURA meeting commented approvingly on the topics to be featured for the remainder of the semester.

Chad Priest’s Valentine’s Day presentation, featured on Page 1, will describe how climate change already is requiring communities to develop disaster relief plans.

The IURA doesn’t usually meet in March, but this year a bonus meeting, on March 13, will feature **Beth Cate**, IU’s widely known and well-

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respected expert on the Supreme Court. The court has a number of controversial cases on its docket, and its rulings are likely to be subject to wide discussion and examination. Beth will offer insight into the issues involved. A lively Q&A is anticipated.

On April 10, **Glenn Gass**, Jacobs School professor emeritus, will present a program commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Beatles taking America by storm. Two days after they appeared on “The Ed Sullivan Show” on Feb. 9, 1964, a telecast that attracted some 73 million viewers, the Beatles gave their first concert in the U.S. Because the April meeting is also the IURA’s annual meeting, new board members will be elected.

These programs are on the second Wednesday of the month, at 2 p.m. in the Peterson Room at the IU Foundation. The meetings can also be accessed on Zoom.

On May 8, retirees will gather at Meadowood Senior Living Community to celebrate the end of the academic year with a festive luncheon. IURA member **Wendy Elliot** will provide background piano music for the event. Look for details and reservation forms in future newsletters.

About this newsletter

Newswatch is published at least eight times each year, nine times in 2023-24. With this issue the newsletter is being sent by email to those who have requested that delivery option. A major portion of the dues of the IURA’s 375 members goes to production and mailing costs.

Send address corrections to database manager **Doris Wittenburg** at dwittenb@indiana.edu. For corrections or suggestions about newsletter content, please contact writer/editor **Judy Schroeder** at jschroed@indiana.edu. Photos (except for Priest) are courtesy of **Beau Vallance**.