



# NEWSWATCH

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November 2024

**Next meeting: Holiday luncheon on Wednesday, December 11  
Bloomington Country Club, 3000 S. Rogers St.**

## Plan to attend holiday buffet luncheon

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, the IURA is sponsoring a festive holiday luncheon at the Bloomington Country Club, 3000 S. Rogers St.

The Hoosier Buffet should appeal to everyone. It features Angus pot roast, fried chicken, buttermilk whipped potatoes, cornbread, and a bistro salad with assorted dressings. Apple, berry, and peach cobbler will be available at the coffee station, along with ice cream. Members with dietary restrictions may pre-order a vegetarian (baked ziti primavera) or vegan (roasted vegetable strudel) option.

A harpist will play, and a drawing will be held for four gifts offered by Meadowood, traditional site of the May luncheon. Two people each will receive complimentary dinners for four in the dining room, and two others will be offered two-night staycations in a furnished guest home, with meals included.

Please reserve your place by returning the reservation form on Page 3 so that it is received by no later than Dec. 3.

## Hershey corrects election perception

Political scientist Marjorie Hershey offered her perspective on the 2024 election when the IURA met on Nov. 13. In addressing a record audience of 150, 90 in person at the IU Foundation and another 60 on Zoom, she sounded a note of hope to those distressed by the election results,

**“This was NOT a massive Trump victory or a massive Republican victory,”** she said. It represents



instead the many small switches we’ve seen just about every two years. Yes, Trump won the Electoral College, but by about the same margin as Biden won in

2020. Although the popular vote totals still are not final, it’s likely that Trump’s margin will be extremely narrow.

As for the Republican victories in the Senate, “in 2024 that was almost inevitable,” Hershey said. Democrats held 68 percent of the seats that were up for election. “The more seats you hold, the more you have to defend,” she pointed out. Democrats won four of the five riskiest Senate races in states that Trump carried.

It is likely Republicans will control the House by about the same narrow majority that they do now, Hershey said. But internal divisions among House Republicans have limited their effectiveness. At the state level, Democrats held all 23 of their governorships and suffered minimal legislative losses.

**What led to a Trump victory?** Trump gained a few percentage points in most social demographic categories, Hershey agreed, but that isn’t unusual. Despite massive campaign spending, turnout declined from 2020, especially in big, predominately Democratic cities.

Trump did better than before among Latinos and Blacks, winning a majority of Latino men. By and large Blacks and Latinos are more conservative than liberal on cultural issues, Hershey said. Gender and race also may have played a role. “The unwillingness of many people to envision a woman as commander-in-chief – and a Black woman at that – may have been a nonstarter for people with traditional values,” Hershey pointed out.

Would things have been different had Biden withdrawn earlier? “It’s hard to estimate the impact of things that didn’t happen,” Hershey informed her chuckling audience. Disinformation from home and abroad played a large role, particularly when it appealed to people’s existing prejudices.

**Why has media coverage so overblown Trump’s win?** Ever since 2016, Trump has received a disproportionate amount of media attention, Hershey pointed out. Negative coverage isn’t a problem because, from the beginning, Trump has discredited the mainstream media. “He’s had decades of practice in providing what media define as news: drama, conflict, norm breaking, shock value,” she said. He has flooded the news stream with so many lies that reporters can’t refute one before the next one comes along.

**What can we expect in the next four years?** Hershey termed Trump’s proposal to evict a million undocumented people “a full-employment act for immigration lawyers.” Massive deportation would inflict a devastating blow to the agriculture, hospitality, and meatpacking industries. “I think he may use the issue symbolically,” she said, “with well-publicized roundups of a much smaller number of immigrants.”

Hershey believes Trump is likely to follow through on tariffs and that he will have clear effects on foreign policy. She also expects a big tax cut for the wealthy and for corporations. As for his intent to repeal civil service protection, “it would throw the administration into endless lawsuits against the biggest single labor union in the U.S.”

“Democracy is a long game,” Hershey reminded her audience. She advises paying attention to Trump’s nominees for positions in the administration and on the Supreme Court – and how senators vote on them. “Senators who vote for his nominees do have to run for re-election,” she pointed out. And if they allow a

10-day recess so that Trump can make appointments without their approval, voters can hold them responsible for abdicating one of their key roles.



**Wendy Bernstein and Laurel Cornell share thoughts with Margie Hershey after the meeting. Photos Beau Vallance**

“We’ve seen big societal change in a relatively short time,” she observed. Increased anxiety leaves people looking for scapegoats. The election is the response of people who feel marginalized and whose racial resentment and status anxiety have been encouraged.

“Donald Trump is temporary,” Hershey concluded. He found a unique opportunity amid a time when trust is in short supply. Still, “he’s a short-timer.”

In introducing Margie, IURA Vice President **John Schilb** called her “our explainer-in-chief.” Unlike pundits who provide an instantaneous narrative that explains everything, he said, Margie is a public scholar, an expert who deeply researches the data and then explains things to general audiences.

As she responded to multiple questions following her talk, Margie emphasized that we all are teachers who must treat others with kindness and respect. Asked about the future of presidential election polling, she urged people to stop misinterpreting polls, which typically have at least a plus or minus two percent margin of error. That fact is too often ignored.

Thanks to webmaster **Allan Edmonds**, a video recording of this meeting, as well as many previous meetings, is available on the IURA website.

## **Help retirees to reach United Way goal**

As of Nov. 11, retirees have pledged or given \$277,060, which is 92 percent of its \$300,000 goal, to the 2024 United Way campaign. This percentage exceeds the performance of the campus as a whole, which is only 70 percent of the way to meeting its

**IURA Holiday Luncheon Reservation  
Wednesday, December 11, 2024**

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.; meal served at noon  
Bloomington Country Club,  
3000 South Rogers Street

PLEASE PRINT Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please initial to order baked ziti primavera \_\_\_\_\_ or roasted vegetable strudel \_\_\_\_\_.  
***All others will have the Hoosier Buffet.***

Enclosed is \$33 per person (indicate number) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Price includes 20% gratuity, 7% state tax, and 1% food and beverage tax.)

Please mail this form, together with your check, made payable to IU Retirees Association, to IURA, P.O. Box 8393, Bloomington, IN 47407-8393.

**RESERVATIONS with PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 3.**

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**IU Retirees Association  
2024-2025 Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

For couple membership, spouse's/partner's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ **9-digit** ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone 1\* \_\_\_\_\_ Email 1\* \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone 2\* \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2\* \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*It is important that you include an email address so we can send you meeting notices. Telephone number/s and email address/es will be included in the membership directory unless you check below:

I do not want my telephone number/s \_\_\_\_\_ or email address/es \_\_\_\_\_ included in membership directory.

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

Membership Type: Single (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_ Couple (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with your check to IU Retirees Association  
P.O. Box 8393  
Bloomington, IN 47407-8393

You may write one check that includes both membership dues and reservation payment.

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

**Nonprofit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage PAID**  
**Bloomington, IN**  
**Permit No. 2**

\$650,000 goal. **Charlie Matson**, the IURA's United Way representative, announced these figures at the Nov. 13 meeting. The campus goal includes retirees, who are a formidable force, accounting for nearly half of IUB's total. Charlie encourages retirees to complete their pledge form or to note "IURA" on checks mailed directly to United Way of South Central Indiana, 431 S. College Ave., Bloomington 47403, before the end of the year.

**If your mailing label (above) asks you to join rather than thanking you, this is your FINAL complimentary newsletter. Please join today by completing the membership form on Page 3.**

### **Look for your directory in December**

The December issue of *Newswatch* will be mailed with the annual membership directory, compiled by database manager **Doris Wittenburg**. The directory is distributed *only* to members.

Special thanks to the 406 people who, as of Nov. 19, have become members. They make this newsletter possible. The IURA is entirely self-supporting. Founded in 1975 as the IU Annuitants Association, the IURA welcomes all retired faculty and staff and their spouses or partners.

If you wish to be removed from the list, send a message to [dwittenb@iu.edu](mailto:dwittenb@iu.edu) with "unsubscribe" in

the subject line and your name as it appears on IU records. Send address changes to Doris as well.

**Judy Schroeder** writes *Newswatch* at least eight times a year, August through April, except for February. Please send corrections, comments, and opinion letters to her at [jschroed@iu.edu](mailto:jschroed@iu.edu).

### **Dates to add to your 2025 calendar**

The first meeting of the new year will be a field trip. On Jan. 8 retirees will visit the IU Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, which combines the former Glenn Black Laboratory of Archaeology and the former Mathers Museum of World Cultures.

On February 12, John Schilb will talk about the Abraham Lincoln's legacy. John's presentations about Lincoln are perennial favorites at Mini University.

On April 9, Michelle Miller, retired senior lecturer in the School of Public Health, will outline "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Super-Agers." This session, like the February one, will take place in the Peterson Room of the IU Foundation at 2 p.m. and can be joined by Zoom.

The end-of-the-year luncheon at Meadowood on May 14 will celebrate the end of the academic year.

If you are interested in helping to chart the IURA's future, please reach out to President **Perry Maull** or any board member.