

Vintage Times

The semi-annual newsletter of the USI Retirees

Winter/Spring 2021

Events 2021

Monday, April 26
1 p.m.

Igleheart Gardens Tour

Thursday, July 29 (tentative)
4 p.m.

President Rochon's Annual
Reception for USI Retirees
(Location TBD)

Thursday, November 18

Time and Location TBD
USI Retirees' Annual Meeting

USI Retirees Coordinating Council

Marlene Shaw
President
mshaw@usi.edu

Cindy Brinker
President-Elect
cbrinker@usi.edu

Nancy Bizal
Past President
nbizal@usi.edu

Joanne Artz
Secretary
jartz@usi.edu

John Deem
Treasurer
jdeem@usi.edu

Members at Large

Craig Ehlen
cehlen@usi.edu

Tim Mahoney
tmahoney@usi.edu

Phyllis Oeth '81
pjoeth@usi.edu

Coordinating Council 2021 Meeting Dates

Thursday, March 18

Thursday, May 20

Thursday, September 16

Thursday, November 18

(Annual Meeting)

Carnac in New Harmony - Since I retired four years ago, I have traveled the world to see places I studied as an art student at the University of Southern Indiana many years ago-Greece, Egypt, Northern Thailand, Nepal, Easter Island, and many others. But my true love is Brittany, France. Carnac, or Karnag in Breton language, is home to over 3,000 standing granite monoliths, or menhirs, placed in parallel lines, spanning nearly four miles. Although no one knows the purpose of this assemblage created over 6,000 years ago, it is a highlight of many stone arrangements from the Ring of Brodgar in Orkney, Scotland, down through England, and along the west coast of France.

Perhaps Brittany appeals to me because of the deep Celtic spirit of the people, also thoroughly French now. Scotland and France reflect both sides of my ancestry: the Weinzapfels hail from Alsace, and the Roys from Celtic lands. With a quest to visit all regions of France begun after a family reunion near Colmar in 1991, I first spent time in Brittany in 2008. Instantly I felt connected there. Though they speak very little English, people live in tune with the land and the sea. My landlady there brings me vegetables she grows, and I can buy oysters sold on the roadside. But the stones, the stones, the giant granite stones-*Les Alignements*—I keep returning for those stones. I've visited there in winter, with no one else around. I've seen a full moon rise over them, mist surrounding them. Many times, I've accompanied family members on the "official" tour. And I've watched extraordinary performance art projected on them and heard original, live music about their legends played among them.

In 2020, although I had rented my little stone cottage in Carnac for all of July and August, by May it was apparent Americans could not enter the EU. Crestfallen, I decided to concentrate on a local project begun in 2018 when I bought a little, overgrown, weedy lot on Church Street in New Harmony. Early on, I engaged a local arborist to clean up the lot and plant 30 natives from his tree nursery. I began a landscape plan to include many more evergreens to create a backdrop for what became my homage to Carnac. Then, in August, I drove to the last Hoosier-owned limestone quarry in Mitchell, Indiana, and searched for the perfect menhir.

On December 29, my 13-foot-high, 16,000-pound tribute to Bretagne arrived on a flatbed truck and gently was placed in the middle of what I call *Zap Park*. Several dozen New Harmonists attended on that cold day to watch the placement. Since then, I have received thank-you notes from very unexpected places, and a friend even wrote a poem about it. Another friend noted that such an event could occur only in New Harmony. I see it as a new start, after a tough year, a curiosity and a gift to the town. As the trees grow up and around my menhir and I grow older, and perhaps travel less, I'll always celebrate a piece of Carnac here in New Harmony.



Connie Weinzapfel '78 is director emerita of Historic New Harmony, a unified program of University of Southern Indiana and Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, and the 2020 recipient of the Eli Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana Historical Society.

Message from the President

Welcome to a new year. I hope you are well, warm and safe after one or both COVID vaccinations. What a delight to receive so many replies about what you're doing while sheltering. In these pages you'll see your responses about time well spent on favorite activities, new challenges and notable accomplishments.

Although lengthening days promise spring, the groundhog did see his shadow, which surely explains the skating rinks still in our birdbaths. Nevertheless, I am happy to report almost daily I receive colorful promises that spring truly is on its way-catalogs of seeds, flowers, nursery plants and gardening tools. I can hardly wait!

Indeed, here in Evansville we have a magnificent new destination, Igleheart Gardens and Bird Sanctuary, just east of Harrison High School. Over the past several years, passersby have noticed extensive excavation and landscaping in progress on the 25-acre childhood home of Phyllis Igleheart. As a tribute to her parents, she established the Igleheart Foundation to transform the private family estate into a public sanctuary featuring a French chateau, horse stables, and more than 300 species of trees and shrubs.

Although USI Retirees scheduled a tour last spring that included seeing 10,000 tulips in bloom, the COVID pandemic led us to postpone the tour. Meanwhile, landscapers planted even more flowers, shrubs and trees; erected statues; and built walkways and fountains. And we have rescheduled, depending on COVID, of course, **our tour is set for Monday, April 26, 2021, at 1 p.m.** Mr. Rick Tremont and Dr. Mark Browning will discuss the history of the family and the estate. Then we retirees will enjoy a self-guided tour of the grounds; we have reserved spaces for 35 retirees and guests. **Please watch your email for updates and check Igleheartgardens.com.**

I look forward to seeing you as soon as we can gather safely.

Marlene V. Shaw
President, USI Retirees' Coordinating Council
mshaw@usi.edu



*Igleheart Gardens main entrance,
5500 Outer Lincoln Avenue*

Congratulations to USI Retirees' Grant Recipients

Lauren S. Baker '18
John A. Farless '98
Susan E. Fetscher
Joel S. Matherly
William T. Pool '19

These grant recipients are full-time, benefits-eligible employees seeking degrees at USI. The grants of \$100 each are funded by USI Retirees' membership dues fund.

Welcome, Friends and Colleagues, to Retirement

Rebecca Ball
Mary Ann Bernard
Brian Brown
Sylvia Dillworth
LaVerne Jones '05
Mary Beth Rush
Connie Schnarre
Maryann Shifflet
Colleen Walsh D'11
Virginia Weiler

Educational Sessions with United Healthcare and AmWins

Friday, March 5, 2021, at 2 p.m. and Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 10 a.m.

USI will hold an educational session about the United Healthcare Advantage plan and the AmWins insurance billing process, along with time to ask questions. Links to the sessions appear on the USI Retirees' Benefits page: <https://www.usi.edu/hr/benefits/retiree/>.

USI Retirees during a Pandemic

I have done very little driving since March. Today I went out for a drive with me doing the driving. It is so easy to forget what all the car's controls are, how to send heat to the frosted windshield, which lane to be in because it's been months since I went down many of the roads. Thank goodness John was with me and could answer my questions.

Jenny Medcraft '98

Making masks for students and teachers at Holy Redeemer School as well as for family members has taken up several weeks of the past year during this pandemic. Crocheting dishcloths, counted cross stitch and trying to learn to play the keyboard have also been relaxing hobbies that I can finally get to in retirement. **Susie Schmitt '03**

During 2020, Connie and I compiled a fourth volume of my Pi Tze calendar from thoughts I jotted down in small notebooks. What a joy to hear back from friends and family who connect with different days' sayings and tell us, "Sometimes I laughed, sometimes I cried and sometimes I said, 'What is he talking about?'" **Don Pitzer**

Achievement: I have learned I do not always have to be in a hurry. I have learned it is OK after I have finished the morning barn chores, to hang on the gate to watch my horses search for the best blade of grass or stem of hay. I have learned it is OK to give in to the persistent barn cat who wants me to sit in the barn chair so he can sit on my lap a few minutes-that's all the time he wants. **Nancy Bizal**

During the pandemic I've discovered time to walk slowly and enjoy the outdoors, especially in winter, rather than race through two miles every morning. I edited a couple of books, history and politics, and several scholarly articles; and I wrote a few poems. Thrice already I have postponed and re-planned a trip to Scotland to deliver my sister's ashes-now hoping for September 2021. **Sherry Bevins Darrell**

Well, if I am not mistaken, Shakespeare wrote *King Lear* while in quarantine for black plague. Although I certainly can't match that, I have been working on some digital prints in the studio. Work based on my trip to India before the pandemic started, which has served as a great resource while in quarantine. Best wishes to all from Roswell, New Mexico. **Michael Aakhus**

Note: See sample of Michael's work, right.



During the pandemic, I have sewn and given away over 125 masks to friends, family and teachers. I also completed the challenge with my church of reading the entire Bible in a year. I've discovered how much I just enjoy being at home. **Jann Hickey**

I've been doing a lot of reading and writing (reviews mostly), duh, but also repairing and painting parts of my old house and tending my garden, which has never been in quite this good shape. Also, walking in my neighborhood is more pleasant and rewarding than I remembered. And did I mention the new cat? Of course, we miss spending non-virtual time with family and friends, hither and yon, here and abroad, in restaurants and at rest stops; but with the help of Phil Fisher, at least my golf game is not getting worse, and I did vote to restore the soul of America, a project that seems to be working out . . . a bit. **Tom Wilhelmus**

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In Memoriam

Timothy K. Buecher
Retiree

Thomas J. Dieter
Retiree

Augustine J. "Jay" Fredrich
Retiree

Lloyd D. Jost
Spouse of Retiree Joan Jost

Mary H. Killian
Retiree

LaVerne B. Miller
Retiree

Betty J. Fordice Rice
Spouse of Retiree David Rice

Harlan C. Van Over
Retiree

Membership in USI Retirees

Membership in USI Retirees is open to retired employees, spouses and partners, and surviving spouses and partners. To become an active member or to renew your membership, send us your name, address, telephone number, email address and a list of your interests with your annual dues of \$20 (per person), **checks payable to USI Retirees**. Mail your information and check to USI Retirees, c/o USI Foundation, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712. Dues cover 12 months from one Annual Meeting until the next (usually November to November). Membership dues support five \$100 biannual scholarships to faculty and staff enrolled in USI courses.

To learn more about USI Retirees, visit USI.edu/retirees.

Many thanks to Sherry Darrell, editor of *Vintage Times*.

USI Retirees during a Pandemic (Continued)

Here is our report: In addition to walking two miles almost every day, Shirley and I have started playing Scrabble again, and Shirley scored 102 points on one play. We haven't attended many of the SWIMGA Zoom meetings. We are eager for spring to come so we can get out into the gardens. Shirley works the *NYT* crossword puzzle every night, and I am trying to catch up on my reading. **Walter Everett**

Moira and I walk two to four miles most days, usually on the USI-Burdette trail, where we have developed a new appreciation for the day-to-day changes that add up to seasons. It reminded me how much I like pawpaws as understory trees so I have been planting them in my back acre as I remove the invasive autumn olive. Otherwise, it's bridge online, monitoring bluebird boxes on campus and FaceTime with the grandkids. **Jim Bandoli**

Years ago, our romance developed around our mutual work ethic, and our happiest moments have been while working together. We were truly blessed to be sheltered together for the past year during which we accomplished some tricky home projects and many first-time challenges. (I say this with a raised hammer and a smile.) With inside projects completed, I am becoming more active in organizations, i.e., SWIMGA, MENSA and Integra; and I am studying foreign languages with my great-grandsons. Fred is making sawdust in his woodshop, and I am always impressed with his craftsmanship. Spring will soon demand our attention for outside projects, and I think I can already smell the loose soil in my flower beds. Life is good! **Fred and Barbara Kalvelage**

Thanks, USI Retirees, for sharing your pandemic stories. Additional responses, several with links, we include in an email; check your inboxes for more information.