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Propylaeum programs help meet our mission and help introduce the Propylaeum to hundreds of people each year. The board and committees are working hard to reschedule all programs that have been postponed this spring including “Digging in Their Heels,” the Marilyn K. Glick Women’s Enrichment Series and the May Wright Sewall Leadership Award.

New dates will be posted soon and all purchased tickets will be transferable to these new dates.

April 2020

BULLETIN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MISSION STATEMENT

The Historic Propylaeum brings women and organizations together to learn, connect, and grow promoting individual and community development.

IMPACT STATEMENT

The Indianapolis Propylaeum is a rich part of the history of Indianapolis women. It has always focused on providing a platform for women to express cultural and intellectual ideas and a continuing opportunity to enhance our community in every time period since 1888.

OFFICERS

Rose Wernicke, President
 pegg kennedy, Vice President
 Susan Fasig, Treasurer
 Christine Smith, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Alex Barnstead	Cathy Michel
Holly Davis	Karen Pfeiffer
Veronica Embry	Debra Renkens
Jim Glass	Melissa Smith
Gloria Harbin	Tiffany Talbert
Marjorie Kienle	

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Governance: Alex Barnstead
 Facilities: Rose Wernicke
 Finance and Audit: Susan Fasig
 Financial Development: Jim Glass
 Membership Services & Recruitment: Cathy Michel
 Outreach: Joanne Solomon

STAFF

Executive Director: Liz Ellis
 Marketing & Events Coordinator: LaurieAnne Perez
 Facilities Manager: Janice Radford
 Bulletin Editor: Liz Ellis



President's Letter

Greetings from my home. My disappointment at the postponement of programs and events at the Propylaeum made me think about what the organization means to me in the bigger picture. I am passionate about historic architecture and have shared some insights about the Prop Tea Room in an article in this issue. I love to read and discuss books and the Prop book group found a virtual resource to meet and discuss the selection. Email has allowed Propylaeum committees to discuss rescheduling and planning programs and events for later in the year and next year. Phone calls to long-time members have given me insight to other reasons why people love the Prop. Stay healthy and see you at the Prop in the future!

Rose Wernicke



Note from the Executive Director

Hello from my home as well. The board and staff continue to work, plan, and re-plan, outside the Propylaeum mansion. I am confident that we will come through this challenging time as we have through so many other challenging times in history.

The Indianapolis Propylaeum began in 1888. The Prop survived not just the economic downturn of 2009, but both World Wars, the Spanish Flu pandemic, and the Great Depression.

Your continued support and confidence in the Propylaeum will see us through once again. The Propylaeum is nothing, if not resilient.

Liz Ellis





April 2020

Dear Prop Members and Friends,

Your patience and understanding is appreciated during this unprecedented time. As you know we were forced to cancel some programs at the last minute, and cancel others that are still a month away. We do not know how long social-distancing requirements will last and our first consideration is always the safety of our members and guests.

We are diligently working to reschedule programs such as the Marilyn K. Glick Women's Enrichment Series, the May Wright Sewall Leadership Award, "Digging in Their Heels," and Prop Day programs. The board and committee members have worked directly with speakers and sponsors to coordinate plans moving forward. In the coming weeks we will provide finalized dates for each. We appreciate the calls and emails that we have received letting us know of your plans to attend these programs when new dates are set.

You understand that we depend on funding from not just Propylaeum programming, but from private event rentals as well. We have been working very hard with spring brides to offer alternatives to weddings that were planned for March and April. LaurieAnne's ability to listen, empathize, and offer constructive advice has helped her to reschedule all wedding dates for later in the year. Furthermore, she continues to book new events for the fall and on in to 2021.

Through the uncertainty you have responded with grace and kindness. Looking forward we will depend on your continued support through membership, program sponsorship and ticket sales, event rentals, and charitable donations. We have made tremendous strides in the past few years establishing the Propylaeum Legacy Endowment as well as the Restore.1410 Preservation Fund and we count on the generous support that you provide to help us weather rough patches, like today, and continue to grow into the future.

Thank you for your continued support. Please follow social-distancing guidelines to remain safe and healthy. Check-in with members and friends with a phone call, an email, or a hand-written note. Let them know what the Prop means to you and ask what the Prop means to them. We are all in this together.

Wishing you health and safety,

Liz Ellis
Executive Director
Indianapolis Propylaeum

Prop Member Spotlight

Angela Stephens-Tarter joined the Indianapolis Propylaeum in 2016 after attending the Marilyn K. Glick Women's Enrichment Series featuring Eva Kor. She was invited to attend with a group of women from Bose McKinney, a local law firm where she has been a partner since 2006. "I joined very shortly after that," she said.

Angela grew up in Indiana and attended Southport High School before Indiana University, then IU McKinney School of Law.

"I love historic architecture" she said. "We lived in the Old Northside neighborhood before moving to Fall Creek Place. I was familiar with the Propylaeum mansion from walking around the neighborhood."

When asked what she likes about being a member of the Prop she said, "The Propylaeum feels welcoming, like a group of friends who always support you. Everyone has a genuine interest in who you are



Angela Stephens-Tarter modeling fashions at the fall Style Show.

as a person, no matter what you do or who you are. Sometimes I can't make it to a program for a few months and I walk in to the Prop and everyone is so positive and so happy."

Angela participated as a model in the Properly Chic Style Show in October and she participated as a suffragist at the State House event in January.

Angela and her husband have one son who is eight years old, and adult step-children who live in San Diego, Salt Lake City, and Seattle. "We were planning to visit them over Spring Break before we were confined to home."

In her free time she likes reading, gardening, and hiking. "We are trying to hike all of the Indiana State Parks" she said. Angela is also a fan of classic movies and has photos of Carole Lombard on her home office walls. She's hopeful that the March Prop Day program about Carole Lombard can be rescheduled.



Left to right: Prop Members Bev Watkins, Nora Spitznogle, Angela Stephens-Tarter, Jill Chambers, and Rhonda Impink

Staying Connected with the Prop

In an effort to engage members and friends we have created and are creating new social media content.

Stay tuned for in-depth and behind-the-scenes tours of the Propylaeum.

Moving forward we are anticipating on-line programming as well including Prop Day style programs that will be available for all.

If you have ideas on how you would like to interact from a distance, please let us know. You can contact either Liz or LaurieAnne at 317-638-7881 or by emailing liz.ellis@thepropylaeum.org or l.wickens@thepropylaeum.org.

Private Events

In light of the social distancing guidelines from the CDC and Governor Holcomb, many of the private events scheduled at the Propylaeum in March, April, and May have been postponed. From brides to corporate meeting planners, we've been working with our private event clients to ease stress and calm concerns. We have updated our event policy to allow events during this uncertain time to reschedule for another open date later this year at no charge. While we had a busy Spring scheduled, fortunately nearly all of these postponed events have decided to reschedule for later this year. Despite our doors being physically closed for the time being, we have also continued to book events. Our unique venue is perfect for intimate weddings, lively dinner parties, festive corporate events, and more. Plus, members get a 30% discount on all private events. If you are interested in hosting a private event at the Propylaeum please email l.wickens@thepropylaeum. We are booking events for summer and fall 2020, as well as into 2021.

LaurieAnne Perez



Bride and groom dance in the parlor. Photo courtesy of Rakoteet Photography.

The Art of the Tea Room

The Tea Room, which is believed to have been re-designed by Madelene Maus and the Schafs between 1903 and 1905, displays striking elements of the Italian Renaissance style. Based on the art and architecture of the Romans, the style is reflected in the use of volutes in the brackets of the sideboard and fireplace, the entablatures with dentils along the sides of the room and above the sideboard and fireplace, the wooden beams of the ceilings fashioned into geometric patterns, the panels of arabesque carvings in the ceiling, and the restored painted frieze featuring arabesques and game birds.

The design of the substantial sideboard and iconography in the frieze also illustrate the Victorian/Edwardian style of dining room. The house has a large butler's pantry between the dining room and kitchen, so the symbolism of the sideboard goes beyond the storage function; The large size, prominent place, and elaborate design speak of affluence and the importance of fine dining in Victorian and Edwardian culture. The windowed storage area and large serving space gave room for display of beautiful objects and sumptuous foods. Imagery related to food held a prominent place in dining rooms at the beginning of the 20th century, illustrating abundance from the land and sea, including poultry, fish, grapes and other fruits. That the poultry and fish are depicted as just harvested illustrates the Victorian view of nature at the service of humanity. Grapes illustrate the abundance of wine and swags of fruit show the bounty of the harvest. It would seem natural to have depictions of barley and hops in a beer brewer's dining room, but none have been found yet.

The distinctive Rookwood facing of the fireplace offers a contrast to the Renaissance motifs in the rest of the room, bringing an element of the American Arts and Crafts movement into the dining experience. Maria Longworth Nichols founded the Rookwood Tile Company in Cincinnati in the early 1880s. Nichols was a potter in the Arts and Crafts style and focused on making useful articles also beautiful. She developed an appreciation for Japanese art at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition. The fireplace design, of flamingos wading through a bed of anthurium, or flamingo flowers, has been attributed to John D. Wareham, an artist at the Rookwood Potter Company.

Rose Wernicke (with contributions from Jim Glass)



Rookwood Tile fireplace



Top left: Ornate sideboard; top right and bottom left: game birds and fish frieze around the top of the room; bottom right: ornate ceiling



April Fun Tuesday Cancelled

Due to the CDC recommended limitations on gathering and travel (people from outside Indy travel here for this event), the Fashion Arts Society of Newfield's has cancelled the 2020 Hats Off Event. This year's scheduled event was to have been a recording of a podcast episode *Downtown by Design: The Fashion and Art of Stephen Sprouse* with April Calahan and Cassidy Zackary, hosts of the podcast *Dressed*. Stephen Sprouse was an American artist and designer credited with pioneering the 1980's mix of uptown sophistication with downtown punk and pop sensibility. He was 14 years old when he began sketching for Bill Blass. The Hats Off Event is the major fundraiser for the Fashion Arts Society, a Newfield's affiliate group, and helps fund fashion acquisitions. Although this news is disappointing, the Propylaeum Fun Friday group is still working on finding fun and interesting events for its members when it is appropriate to resume Fun Friday outings. Thanks to all members for their understanding and past attendance at the Fun Friday events.

Monica Vojnovich

Prop Members Sew Masks

Prop Member Cindy Dillman was a nurse for 24 years. "I feel like making masks is a way that I can support my profession and give back." To date Dillman has made nearly 110 masks for IU Health, Franciscan Health, and Ascension to help with the shortage of medical supplies that hospitals have run into with the influx of patients with COVID19.

"My friend (and Prop member) Bev Watkins called to check on me and said 'I thought you'd be sewing masks.'" said Dillman. That was all the encouragement she needed to gather materials and begin sewing. "I've been sewing for as long as I can remember" she said. "My grandmother taught me to embroider when I was 7 years old and I haven't stopped since."

Dillman has also sewn all of the Votes for Women sashes that Prop suffragists have worn for a number of different events.

Prop Board President Rose Wernicke picked up the mantle as well and sewed 47 masks for IU Health.



X-Ray Technicians at IU Health wearing Dillman's masks.

CALENDAR

Until it is safe to resume group activities, we will not be including dates for upcoming programs. All activities listed in the calendar will be web-only.

April

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 20 Investment Group, 10 a.m.
- 28 Book Group, Noon

May

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 18 Investment Group, 10 a.m.
- 26 Book Group, 10 a.m.

June

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 15 Investment Group, 10 a.m.
- 23 Book Group, Noon.



Masks sewn by Wernicke

For all upcoming events, follow us on:



Membership

Active Memberships contribute to the culture and social life of the organization. Dues are partially tax deductible and members may carry a monthly account, receive a 30% facility rental discount for private events held at the Propylaeum, receive special event pricing for Propylaeum Events, and enjoy member benefits through Columbia Club reciprocity. Visit thepropylaeum.org for more information.

April Birthdays

- 4 Libby Grueninger
- 7 Janet Barb
- 19 Austin Elliott
- 27 Jan Wahls

*We love to honor our members. Please let us know if you have an upcoming birthday or if we missed your birthday.