Upcoming Programs Cancelled

Given the uncertainty of our lives right now with the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation, the UIRA Board of Directors has voted to put a hold on all UIRA activities until this fall.

The May airport tour and the June picnic have been cancelled. The annual meeting, including election of officers, has been postponed until September. The current board will serve until the election in September. The *Gray Hawk* will still be published in May and June.

We'll still be collecting membership dues this summer. Lois Lembke will be sending emails to those of you whose membership is expiring on June 30. Dues information and a membership form will be included in the May *Gray Hawk*, but only people whose membership expires need to return the form.

And to remind you about how fickle Iowa weather can be, here is a photo taken in Iowa City on the morning of March 23. The photo was taken by Phil Klein, the UIRA webmaster.
April Greetings from the UIRA President

Susan and I have been hunkered down for over two weeks as we adjust to our new normal. Since we both have underlying medical issues and are very much at risk, we have decided to shelter in place. Like so many others we are keeping in touch with family and friends electronically. We worry about our daughter in NYC and sons and families in Denver and Iowa City. And like so many seniors, we long to hug our grandkids.

As you already know, we've put a hold on UIRA activities until fall. We hope we can be up and running in September but only time will tell. We still plan to publish the *Gray Hawk* in May and June. In the May issue we'll announce the 2020 service award winners and the winners of the 2020 photo contest. The May issue will also include a membership form for those of you whose membership expires on June 30.

On a final note, we mourn the passing of Dean Borg who died last week. Dean was an active and engaged member of UIRA and had been a member of the UIRA Board since 2018. He approached his service to our association as he approached everything in his life, with grace and dignity. On behalf of the Board and the entire membership, we extend our condolences to his wife Sheila and his entire family. He will be missed.

Stay safe and well.
--Emil

Coronavirus image from (Iowa) State Hygienic Lab
UIRA Special Interest Groups

CHANGE -- The Gray Hawk Steppers are discontinuing walks until further notes. With the virus news, they thought it best to practice social distancing.

CHANGE – The Gray Hawk Writers have been meeting fortnightly since April 1999. We read aloud what we have written, encourage one another, and offer friendly critique. In 2014 we published an anthology, *Yesterdays*. Our storytelling and writing styles are quite diverse; there are many pathways that can be followed when writing. Visit us as a guest; you may decide you would like to join the group. Everyone has a story to tell. Email the new chair of the group Doug Paul at DougPaul@harvestpreserve.org

The UIRA Board of Directors monthly meetings have been suspended because of COVID-19.