

Roundabout ~ November 10, 2020

NEXT WEEK



Well-known Bloomington gardener and radio host Moya Andrews will “Focus on Flowers” when we meet via Zoom. After teaching in Australia (where she was born) and Britain, she spent 30 years at Indiana University, retiring as vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of the faculties. Since 2004 she has presented “Focus on Flowers” on WFIU. Her program is also podcast on NPR. She has written the gardening column for *Bloom* since the magazine began. Her talk will focus on the cut flower industry worldwide and provide some advice about flower gardening in Bloomington. **Connie Shakalis** will offer the reflection.

THIS WEEK’S NEWS

Coat Drive



The IU Rotaract Club is collecting new or gently used winter items to give to people experiencing homelessness.

Linh Phuong Dinh Tran, the Rotaract service chair and a former Interact president, is heading the project.

Both Maren McClelland and Linh are willing to pick up coats throughout the Bloomington area if drop-off times don't work or for people are not comfortable dropping off coats in person. Call or text Linh at 260-206-2220.

Talent Show



Connie Shakalis is competing in Bloomington Playwrights Project's Holiday Talent Show. Vote for her (one vote permitted per email) and help her advance to Round 2 for a chance to win \$1,000. Voting ends at midnight Nov. 13.

Acts that make it to the next round will film a professionally recorded second performance that will be aired and voted on live on Dec. 17.

Watch Connie's performance here (click on her picture) and then vote:
<https://woobox.com/h9j2ek>.

Special Friday the 13th Virtual Visit

Jennifer Jones, who will become Rotary International's first woman president in 2022-23, will speak at the District 6580 Friends of the Rotary Foundation's free virtual event on Nov. 13 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Rotarians in the News

Shelli Yoder was elected to the State Senate in the Nov. 3 election. Shelli already has been elected to join her party's leadership, where she'll serve as assistant caucus chair. This reporter

regrets the omission of her name from last week's *Roundabout*. **Phil Eskew** was an unsuccessful candidate for the MCCSC board. Although Rotary is not a political organization, serving in public office is an important example of service above self.

Scott Shackelford's research on governing space and dealing with space debris was featured in a front-page story in Tuesday's *Herald-Times*.

Scholarship Deadline Approaching

The deadline to apply for the 2021-2022 District Global Grant Scholarship is Dec. 18. Try to think of people you know who might be interested. **Jim Bright** is the Global Grant Scholarship co-chair. More information can be found at www.rotary6580.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Wheeler Mission's volunteer opportunities are growing. They include:

- [Filling the Tree: The Twelve Days of Christmas](#),
- [Filling the Hearts: Holiday Music and Activities](#), and
- [Filling the Table: Holiday Meal](#).

Those interested in working on the planning committee for Silent Night, a silent auction on Dec. 10, should contact JosieRice@WheelerMission.org. She'll also respond to interest in any other activity.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed: Bloomington Rotarians will ring the bells again this year for the Salvation Army, at new locations, the east side and south side Kroger stores. Volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094ba9ae2fa64-rotarysalvation>. Ring dates are Nov. 29, and Dec. 6, 13 and 20. As of press time, 24 spots still were open, including two on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

United Way Day of Action Literacy Backpacks: Volunteers are still needed Dec. 2, 3, and 4 to assemble 600 backpacks and possibly distribute them. This is the club's District Grant project for 2020-2021. It provides needy children in Bloomington materials that help them to achieve in school and beyond. Sign up at: <https://events.civicchamps.com/organizations/8/opportunities>.

OUR PROGRAM: BUSINESS OUTLOOK PANEL



Despite recent historic progress in employment and economic output, the U.S. economy is far from fully recovering gains made before the COVID-19 pandemic. Concerns over anticipated spikes in virus cases this winter contribute to considerable uncertainty. Those were the main points made by the 46th annual Kelley School of Business Outlook Panel. The panel was made up of Andy Allard (C-Suite), Kyle Anderson (Indiana), Andrew Butters (national/international), Sreeni Kamma (financial markets), Jennifer Pearl (Bloomington Metro), and Phil Powell (moderator).

Of particular interest was Kyle Anderson's presentation about Indiana. Among his conclusions:

- Overall, Indiana is relatively well positioned to outperform during the recovery period as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Slack remains in the Hoosier labor force, providing an opportunity for output growth as we move into 2021.
- He expects to see slow or even negative growth conditions during the last quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, as the state faces new waves of infections.
- He does not believe total lockdowns will be necessary, as we have more knowledge of how to combat the virus now compared to the start of the pandemic.
- He expects strong positive growth in the second half of 2021, which could set 2022 up for a strong year of positive economic output in Indiana

Jennifer Pearl provided a list of things Bloomingtonians can do locally to help the economy

- Minimize the spread of Covid-19
- Collaborate on shared economic development priorities and challenges
- Advance regional and state strategies
- Diversify employment opportunities
- Connect conversations around workforce
- Support small business

Michael Reschke's report on the Outlook panel can be found in the (Bloomington) *Herald-Times*: https://www.hoosiertimes.com/herald_times_online/news/business/panelists-expect-indianas-economy-to-recover-in-2021/article_fbbeefb6-2387-11eb-bdb8-0b51b65d4ef5.html

This Week's Meeting

In a reflection, Rotarian **Jim Sims** reminded his audience to remember that in this time of economic challenge, it is important always to keep everyone in mind, but especially those who are struggling in poverty. Any economic recovery program, he said, should address the causes of poverty.

Two Rotarians are celebrating birthdays this week: **Walt Koon** on Friday and **Trent Deckard** on Saturday.

President **Ashley Wesley** and Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Predmore presided at the Zoom meeting.

THE ROTARY TOAST FINALE



Reaction to last Friday's successful Bloomington Rotary Toast continues to flow in. Bob Hammel's acceptance speech especially drew plaudits. "You Rotarians, in your general mission and notably in what you unite to do locally every year in this particular event, embody something that has always hovered in my mind – probably put there and patiently, insistently nurtured there – by my mother, almost from birth," Bob said.

"If anyone needs any confirmation that there is a God ... or something that gives a divine orderliness to the existence and the continuation of this mess we call humanity, it is that very element – above and way beyond the independence we proudly defend ... to the even greater interdependence that we far too often don't even recognize," he said. "Think about yourself. Think about the intimate, relatively small world around you. I'll do it for you by talking about myself. There are a few things I can do pretty well. There are many, many more things that I can't – that I have to ask, or to hire, in some way depend on others to do for me. And the divine

part, the godly, almost haunting counterpart is that that someone I need is out there, available for me.”

“Congratulations to everyone who organized this Rotary Toast,” said Past District Gov. **Judy Witt**. “Well done. All comments were great, especially those from Bob. Recognition so well deserved...what an inspiring man.”

“Thank you for organizing such a wonderful event to honor Dad and helping raise donations for wonderful local causes including the Hoosier Hills Food Bank,” said Bob’s son, Rich, one of the Toasters.

The late Past District Gov. Judy Bush “would have loved the part with Anthony Thompson,” said her husband, John. “That was special. She was at Terre Haute North during his time there and then, of course, we all followed him at IU. She had several opportunities to interact with him over the years.”

After the Toast, Bob told the story of how the Mop Lady became part of the pre-game festivities at IU men’s basketball games. Shortly after Tom Crean was hired, he sat in front of Bob and Julie Hammel at an IU women’s basketball game and asked them what he could do to get more people to attend games. “Bring the Mop Lady back,” Julie replied immediately. Crean didn’t know what she was talking about but made some inquiries, and soon the Mop Lady was on the video board before every game. Connie Shakalis wondrously reprised the Mop Lady for the Toast.

Thanks to the many sponsors who contributed: <https://rotarytoast.com/sponsors/>

Liza Prall of Blooming Boards provided a summary of some of the more unusual items on the charcuterie board:

“The green pickled things with stems are caperberries. Purple olives are Chilean alphonso; green ones are Caselvetrano. There were also tint honey balsamic soaked onions and red sweet Peruvian drop peppers. As for the sweet stuff, blackberries, red raspberries, strawberries, grapes, kiwi berries (green balls), and golden berries (orange balls). We were lucky to be able to include fresh persimmons on the big boards.

“Each board had some kind of Brie with honey and a blueberry vanilla goat cheese. The hard cheeses were variations of Gouda. Some boards then had bleu or a wine-soaked Iberico cheeses. We included apricots, chili mango, and sweetened dried oranges on most of the boards. And every board got some kind of chocolate treat to cleanse and please the pallet.

“The cookies were beautifully designed by Baking Away and, we thought, were a nice touch. We had a blast with, by far, our biggest order to date. We were thrilled and honored to be a part of the event and are so thankful for the support.”

Reporter and Photographer: **Owen V. Johnson**