

Bloomington Rotary Club Roundabout June 29, 2021

Next week



The changing of the guard: Next week **Ashley Wesley** will give an overview of her year at the helm of the Bloomington Rotary Club. New president **Sally Gaskill** will outline some of what's to come. At our June 22 meeting numerous Happy Dollars celebrated Ashley's leadership. She was dubbed the PPP: Perfect Pandemic President.

This week's news

Rotarians in the news

A guest column in the June/July issue of *Bloom* salutes the legacy of Michael McRobbie, who retired in June after 14 years as IU president. University historian **Jim Capshew** wrote the piece, which says, "McRobbie never wavered from his goal of academic excellence for Indiana University."

Judy DeMuth has resigned from the club following her retirement as superintendent of the MCCSC since 2011. The club has designated Judy a Paul Harris+1 Fellow and sends her our best wishes as she relocates.

Volunteer opportunities

Please use this link to sign up to give the reflection, or stand as a greeter, before a meeting:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044AA5AA2DA3FA7-first>.

During this coming week you will also be receiving a survey in which you can give your input, anonymously, on the club's return to in-person meetings. Please reply.

You can help Area 10 Agency on Aging provide fans to someone who is homebound because of age or disability. Now through Labor Day, visit the Ellettsville True Value (4610 W. Richland Plaza) and join the Fan Club by purchasing a fan. True Value is offering to discount the fans 10 percent.

Save the dates

Our Rotary changeover celebration social event will be **Thursday, July 8**, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Switchyard Pavilion. This event is family-friendly, with hors d'oeuvres from One World Catering. Join the 46 Rotarians who already have signed up. If you are unvaccinated, please wear a mask. To RSVP, use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7TTLSD3>



Saturday, August 7, will be the Teachers Warehouse Supply Drive. **Ron Barnes** is the new board president at TW, and **Marcus Debro** is president-elect.

Our speaker: Fiona Witkowski on keeping safe



To hear the program in its entirety, go to https://youtu.be/Vg8grCFH_YI

Connie Shakalis introduced her longtime friend Fiona Witkowski, who has worked as a medical illustrator in London and a full-time social worker in New York. For the last 10 years, Fiona has been a volunteer with the Huntington First Aid Squad in New York. Her organization responds to about 6,000 calls a year, which makes it the second busiest ambulance crew on Long Island.

Two of her colleagues became quite sick with COVID. It was hard to remember, she said, that, no matter what the emergency, the person being attended to might have COVID. The work was made more difficult by having to wear more protective gear and by having to sanitize surfaces after each run.

Fiona shared some pointers on keeping safe. First and foremost, she said, please get vaccinated. COVID is still a very real threat.

Some other pointers:

- Make sure the number of your house is visible from the street.
- Keep a list of your medications and allergies in your wallet and on your refrigerator. List your recent medical history and any recent trips to areas under a travel advisory.

- If you are seriously ill, make sure your physician post is easily accessible and that your wishes are known. Go to <https://www.indianapost.org> for a copy of the form, which must be signed by you and your physician.
- Observe traffic safety. Wear your seat belt. Don't drink or do drugs and then drive. Don't drive when you're tired. Look out for pedestrians.
- Pull over and stop for emergency vehicles.
- In case of emergency, call 911. The operator is qualified to triage and to guide you through administering CPR if needed.

Fiona volunteers about 500 hours a year to the squad. It spends what she calls "an eye-watering amount" on insurance. The squad is careful to operate within the protocols established by the state. A paramedic works on each shift. She enjoys helping her fellow human beings, the excitement of the unexpected, and the detective work required to make a good presentation when the person needing help arrives at the hospital.

Our weekly gathering

President **Ashley Wesley** presided. **Glenda Murray** reflected on the presidents from the club's founding in 1918. For the first 75 years, Glenda pointed out, presidents were men. William Haynes became the club's first Black president in 1975. In 1993 **Judy Talley** became the first woman to lead the club. Since then nine other women have served as president: **Pat Gross**, **Judy Witt** (who became a District Governor), Glenda herself, **Yolanda Treviño** (the club's first Latina president), **Susan Bookout**, **Joy Harter** (who originated the Five-Way Test), **Sara Laughlin**, **Leslie Green**, and **Ashley Wesley**, whose calm and cheerful presence sustained the club through a difficult year. Next week **Sally Gaskill** will become the 11th woman to serve as president. Twenty-nine past presidents are still with us.

Guests of **Connie Shakalis** included Ruth Albright, Gayle Hart, Mary Penzien, Stephanie von Hirschberg, Janet Weaver, and Cleve Wilhoit. Dianne Shewmaker was a guest of the club.

Joyce Poling celebrates a birthday July 4.

Membership anniversaries include **Craig Spence**, 19 years, and **John Bender**, 51 years.

Producers: **Natalie Blais**, **Michael Shermis**, **Sally Gaskill**, and **Earon Davis**

Roundabout reporter: **Judy Schroeder**