

Roundabout: July 28, 2020

NEXT MEETING: BRANDI HAMILTON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, LIFEDESIGNS



Our August 4 Celebration of Service on Zoom will begin with a chance to socialize. If you arrive before noon (between 11:45 and 11:58), you will be assigned to a breakout room for a period of social conversation. At noon we will all assemble (electronically) for our Celebration of Service.

Brandi Hamilton, the Director of Community Services at *LifeDesigns*, has been with the organization since 2006. She has over 20 years of experience in working with individuals with disabilities. She has been very involved with the Monroe/Owen Community Transition Council and coordinating Mock Interview Days in collaboration with other agencies. She recently became a Certified Employment Support Professional through National APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First) certification. She enjoys working with people and seeing them find their passions. Brandi's topic will be "Employment Services for Individuals with Disabilities."

LifeDesigns is a Bloomington-based nonprofit organization with the goal of building inclusive communities. *LifeDesigns* offers comprehensive services for people with disabilities in south central Indiana, including education, housing, and employment assistance.

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Rotary Toast 2020



Join us at 7 p.m. Friday, November 6, when the three Bloomington Rotary clubs recognize long-time sportswriter and author **Bob Hammel** as the honoree for the 6th Annual Bloomington Rotary Toast.

Half of the proceeds from the Toast will benefit Hammel's chosen charity, Hoosier Hills Food Bank. With the cancellation the Food Bank's major fundraiser, the book fair, and with record demand for food, support is especially critical this year. The other half of the proceeds will benefit local charitable causes championed by the three Bloomington Rotary clubs.

Sara Laughlin is this year's Rotary Toast chair, **Jim Bright** is in charge of publicity, and **Mike Baker** is heading up sponsorships. If your business or organization would like to sponsor the Toast, please contact Mike.

In coming weeks, we will tell you more about how you and your friends can register for this year's Toast.

New Member Initiation: Connie Shakalis



Membership Committee Co-Chairs **Trent Deckard** and **Dave Meyer** conducted the initiation for our newest member, **Connie Shakalis**. Trent told us about Connie's myriad accomplishments as a singer, actress, playwright, conductor, copy editor, and freelance writer. Then Dave carried out the ceremony, and her husband (and fellow Rotarian) **Gus Shakalis** helped Connie fasten her Rotary pin. She is the first person to be initiated into our club as part of our new additional family member program.

Volunteering Opportunities

We will be offering at least one volunteering opportunity every month. Right now, we have three opportunities available. Please notify President Ashley if there are volunteer options you are aware of!

- **Helping Hands** Helping Hands opportunities are still available, and will be ongoing. Visit <https://helpinghands.civicchamps.com> or call (812) 727-0838 to sign up.
- **Community Kitchen** The club is organizing August volunteer opportunities at Community Kitchen. At present, we have *meal serving shifts* available from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. for three volunteers each on Friday, August 7, and Friday, August 21. You can sign up by letting President Ashley know or use the SignUpGenius link, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054FABAA2DA6FE3-volunteering>
- **Teachers Warehouse** As Teachers Warehouse opens up, volunteers are needed almost every day Monday through Friday. Please volunteer by emailing volunteers@teacherswarehouse.org.

Teachers Warehouse Supply Drive

Ron Barnes made a special announcement on behalf of the Teachers Warehouse supply drive. Because of COVID-19, the supply drive cannot be conducted this year as it has been in prior years. Collection bins will be placed at two key sites, but we can't have people present to pass out lists of needed materials, so donations will undoubtedly be reduced. To make up for this, Teachers Warehouse has a number of ways that you can help, including making a monetary contribution. Bloomington Sunrise Rotary Club already has pledged \$6,000, and the Thursday noon club has pledged \$3,000. We can at least match those pledges! There are a number of ways in which you can donate.

SHOP ONLINE

- Order online from our Amazon "wish list": <https://a.co/6kuVEHI>. Quantity can be changed in the Cart. Choose the Gift Registry Address Teachers Warehouse. Items will be shipped directly to Teachers Warehouse.
- Order online from ICC at www.iccbusinessproducts.com . Username: twdonor. Password: donor1234. Click on Favorites.

SHOP LOCALLY

- Shop at Staples and drop your purchase in the Teachers Warehouse bin from Monday, July 27, to Saturday, August 15.
- Shop at Jackson Creek Kroger for school supplies on Saturday, August 1, or Saturday, August 8, and drop your purchase in the Teachers Warehouse bin.
- Buy school supplies and deliver in person to 524 N. Fairview, Bloomington. Teachers Warehouse is open for donations on the following Saturdays: August 1, 8, 22, 29, from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

MAKE A CASH DONATION

- Go to <https://teacherswarehouse.org/>. Look for the "Donate" button. Or, of course, you may also send a check to Teachers Warehouse, 524 N. Fairview, Bloomington, IN 47404.

Committee Sign-Ups

Committee sign-ups will make the rounds this week! You will receive an opportunity via email to join one of our committees. If you would like to remain on your current committee, please sign up again just to be on the official record. President Ashley has confirmations from many of you, but she wants to make sure that no one is overlooked. If you are unsure what committee (or committees) you are part of, let President Ashley know and she will give you that information.

Rotary Face Masks

Our club is placing an order for Rotary-branded face masks. Last week, we had 18 members indicate that they would like to purchase one! If you would like to order one or more masks, please let **Natalie Blais** (jennerblais@gmail.com) know by the end of the day on Thursday, July 30. The amount can be added to your bill or you can send her a check.

JULY 28 PROGRAM: SHERRY MITCHELL-BRUKER, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF FRIENDS OF LAKE MONROE



Michael Shermis introduced our speaker, **Sherry Mitchell-Bruker**, the president and founder of Friends of Lake Monroe. She received her masters and doctorate from Indiana University's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Dr. Mitchell-Bruker's career in environmental hydrology includes research, consulting, and management and has taken her from Indiana to the Everglades, the Sierra Nevada, and back home to Indiana. Her topic was "Building a Plan for Lake Monroe."

Sherry explained that the primary purpose for Lake Monroe is flood control, but it also provides drinking water for 140,000 people, wildlife habitat, and economic benefits to the area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has estimated the value of the drinking water provided by Lake Monroe at \$150 million per year. The watershed of Lake Monroe is 423 square miles, with 24% of the watershed in Monroe County, 54% in Brown County, and 20% in Jackson County (the remaining 2% in two other counties).

Among the issues involved in the management of Lake Monroe is the possibility of *harmful algae blooms*, resulting from residential and farm runoff of nutrients and sediment loading in the lake from erosion. Algae blooms carry toxins, and if the toxins exceed a particular level it is important to not swallow lake water, to clean pets or keep them out of the water, and to shower after swimming. Another issue is the creation of dangerous *disinfectant byproducts* that may result from applying chlorine to water containing algae and sediments. Other issues are the *mercury cycle* involving fish, with the primary source of mercury being coal-fired power plants; *trash and plastics* in the lake, with a particular concern about microplastics; and *invasive species* of both plants and fish.

Concern about these issues led Sherry to create the Friends of Lake Monroe organization. The stated mission of the Friends of Lake Monroe is to protect and enhance Lake Monroe and its watershed through science, advocacy, and public involvement: working collaboratively with citizens, government, and business to improve and support lake water quality. This meant developing water quality goals (e.g., prevent algae blooms, minimize nutrient imports to the lake), carry out water quality monitoring, and formulate a plan to achieve the goals. The Friends received a grant which enabled them to fund some IU scientists and hire Maggie Sullivan as the Watershed Coordinator for the lake. Well-attended community forums have been held in both Bloomington and Nashville so that stakeholder concerns could be voiced. A Friends of Lake Monroe newsletter has been launched, and road signs denoting the watershed have been designed and sites for their installation have been approved in Monroe County. Under a contract with IU's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, water quality is being monitored at specified sites on the lake. The Corps of Engineers is also monitoring water quality at two sites, and sampling of lake's tributaries is also occurring on a monthly basis.

To provide a snapshot view of water quality in the watershed, a fall sampling blitz is scheduled for September 18. The blitz will involve 100 volunteers at 125 sampling sites, and the samples will be analyzed for E. coli, sediment, and nutrients. A protocol for volunteers has been designed to keep them safe from COVID-19.

The steps in the watershed plan development are to determine the pollutant loads in various parts of the lake and watershed, set goals, focus on critical areas, and determine how to achieve the goals. The final product will be an action plan, hopefully to be implemented by multiple agencies, including the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Sherry indicated steps that we can take to help:

- Join Friends of Lake Monroe (see <https://friendsoflakemonroe.org/membership>)
- Join a Friends of Lake Monroe committee (finance people especially needed)
- Sign up for the fall sampling blitz (<https://friendsoflakemonroe.org/event/watershed-sampling-blitz>) on Sept. 18
- Sign up for shoreline trash pickup
- Help out with educational and outreach projects
- Leave no trace when boating, hiking, or other recreation
- If you live in the watershed, minimize the use of fertilizer and pesticides, dispose of waste properly, and maintain septic systems

To hear Sherry's remarks and view the images presented by her, go to the YouTube recording of the July 28 meeting: <https://youtu.be/LcwpYF12bsE> .

To provide helpful feedback on our speaker, go to <https://tinyurl.com/BtownRotarySpkrFdbck>.

JULY 28 CELEBRATION OF SERVICE



President **Ashley Sullivan** presided. **Alain Barker** and **Michael Shermis** were our producers.

Dr. Raj Haddawi's reflection focused on Asheville, N.C., and a recently passed City Council resolution supporting community reparations for Black Asheville. Asheville, which is in western North Carolina – in the heart of the south – is a city of 93,000 people, 12% of whom are African-American. Asheville is famous for the Biltmore Mansion, the largest house ever built. It is also a mecca for movie producers and the birthplace of novelist Thomas Wolfe. Asheville is a popular tourist destination, with 1.5 to 2 million visitors per year.

The resolution supporting community reparations for Black Asheville was approved on July 14, by a unanimous (7-0) vote of the city council. This resolution extended an apology to the Black community and committed the city to initiate programs to address the creation of generational wealth and to boost economic mobility and opportunity in the black community, to assist Blacks in obtaining affordable housing, and to assist Black small businesses. The resolution also calls on other organizations and institutions in Asheville that have benefited from racial inequity to join the city in its apologies and invites them to address racism within their own structures and programs and to work with the city to more comprehensively address systemic racism.

The full text of the resolution can be found at https://www.foxcarolina.com/news/asheville-city-council-passes-resolution-supporting-reparations-for-black-asheville/article_1f052d70-c2e9-11ea-b2a5-bb7a00047ed4.html .

Volunteers Needed to Offer Reflections

Volunteers are still needed for some spots this quarter of the Rotary year (July-September). Please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044AA5AA2DA3FA7-march>

Jim Bright introduced our guests:

- Randy Wheeler, Rotary Club of Evansville
- Marcus Debro, Assistant Principal, Bloomington High School North

- Liz Grenat, Executive Director, CJAM (Community Justice & Mediation Center) (guest of Jim Bright)

We celebrate with **Chris-Michael Morrison** and his family, as their daughter Liberty was released from Riley Children's Hospital after surgery and a 41-day stay. She is now at home recovering. You may send a note of healing and friendship to

Chris-Michael and Amanda Morrison
1604 E Anderson Road
Bloomington, IN 47408

Happy Dollars

Happy Dollars will go to Teachers Warehouse this quarter. Your Happy Dollars can go directly to Teachers Warehouse by clicking on the following link: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=QQ934RDMD9D2J&source=url.

Happy Dollars were given for a variety of reasons, including a donation in honor of today's speaker, in honor of **Mark Cuban** for his significant donation to the Media School at IU, in honor of **Bob Hammel**, and in honor of our newest member from her husband. Also to the Friends of Lake Monroe for hiring **Maggie Sullivan** and to **Trent Deckard** for fundraising for Shalom Community Center.

Reporter: **Bill Perkins**