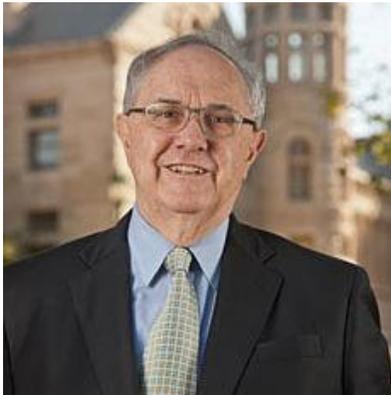


**Roundabout, July 7, 2020**

## **Next week**



Our Zoom meeting next Tuesday noon will feature Professor and Vice President Emeritus **Patrick O'Meara**, speaking on IU and the World. For several decades, O'Meara was the university's ambassador to the world in positions that included dean of International Programs, director of the African Studies Program, and IU's first vice president for international affairs. He created the International Strategic Plan, one of the first such programs in the nation, which focuses on strengthening IU's strategic international partnerships, attracting new international students, and ensuring that IU students are prepared for the global economy. A native of South Africa, O'Meara is a renowned scholar of international development, comparative politics, and African politics. For more information, <https://oneill.indiana.edu/faculty-research/directory/profiles/faculty/full-time/omeara-patrick.html>

## **This Week's News**

### **Michael Shermis: Service Above Self**



At the July 7 meeting **Michael Shermis** was twice honored, once as the 2019-20 recipient of the club's Service Above Self Award and once as a Paul Harris Fellow Plus One. In his nine years as a Rotarian, Michael has been a leader on the Community Service Committee, organizing the Race for Literacy and our past project of delivering election equipment to poll sites. This year he has been chair of the program committee, which he co-chaired last year. He has been co-producing our Zoom meetings for the past four months. Michael is

special projects coordinator for the City of Bloomington. The Service Above Self Award honors “his dedication to helping those who are doing good in this world, with his formidable vision, skills and talents,” said 2019-20 President **Earon Davis**.

In honoring him with his Paul Harris Fellowship Plus One, **Mike Baker** paid tribute to Michael’s leadership role in the nonprofit community. **Jean Emery** announced that the club gave Michael a standing ovation: “You just couldn’t see it.”

### **Clarice Cross named Global Grant Scholar**



The Rotary Foundation has approved IU graduate **Clarice Cross** as District 6580’s Global Grant Scholar for 2020-21. The \$40,000 award will help fund Clarice’s pursuit of a master’s degree in community economic development from Waseda University in Tokyo. During her year as a Rotary global scholar, Clarice will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Tokyo Tamagawa.

Bloomington Rotarians on the District Scholarship Committee are **Jim Bright, Kate Cruikshank, Scott Shackelford, and Charlotte Zietlow**.

Clarice majored in journalism and East Asian languages. As a junior, she served as a communications intern at the U.S.-Japan Council in Washington D.C. She also participated in a “Tomodachi” (friends) leadership program in Chicago, where she worked with diplomats and executives of companies with strong partnerships between Japan and the U.S.

### **Sara Laughlin Nominated for Be More Award**

Past President **Sara Laughlin**, outgoing board president of Teachers Warehouse, has been nominated for a Be More Award. The awards program, sponsored by the Bloomington Volunteer Network, will be online July 14 at noon.

### **Teachers Warehouse Needs Volunteers**

As Teachers Warehouse prepares to open, volunteers are desperately needed almost every day Monday through Friday. Blitz Week is July 27 to Aug. 1, with a practice re-opening July

20 and 23. Preparations for re-opening include everything from inventory to stocking to de-spidering to hanging posters. Please volunteer by emailing [volunteers@teacherswarehouse.org](mailto:volunteers@teacherswarehouse.org). 2020-21 President **Ashley Sullivan** has announced that Teachers Warehouse is this quarter's recipient of weekly contributions to honor our speakers.

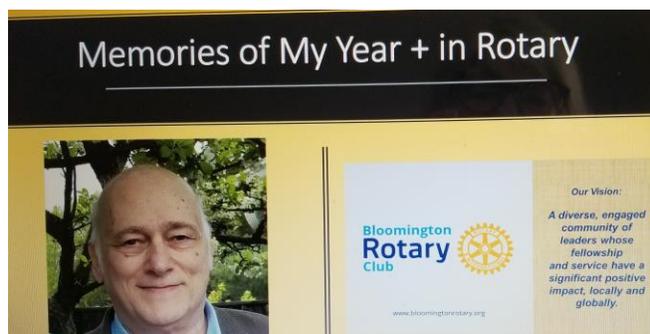
## Happy Birthday, Harmon!

Former Bloomington Rotarian **Harmon Baldwin** will celebrate his 98th birthday on July 31. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, he hasn't been outside since January. "I didn't expect to spend my final days locked up," he observes. You may send greetings to him at 12401 Gayton Road, Apt. 332, Richmond, VA 23238, or [harmon.baldwin@comcast.net](mailto:harmon.baldwin@comcast.net).

## Celebrating the Past, Looking to the Future

The July 7 meeting was moving and inspirational. You can watch it by clicking here: [https://youtu.be/m\\_faonPX\\_j4](https://youtu.be/m_faonPX_j4). 2019-20 President **Earon Davis** and 2020-21 President **Ashley Sullivan** were eloquent and sincere, and the following summary fails to capture the meeting's emotional impact.

In his reflection Earon commented on this unique year. "Big questions and major issues that our society had silenced for generations are being examined," he said. "We must choose between rejecting and denying the things that make us uncomfortable – or examining and learning from them even if those lessons are painful and disturbing, demanding change." He said his job has been to find, among the issues and aspects of life that divide and threaten us, a sweet spot where we can find our commonality and develop friendships. "That sweet spot," Earon said, "has been Rotary. It is not a static Rotary, preserved in a 1950s panorama, but a dynamic and changing Rotary where women and people of color, LGBTQ people, and those from religious or nonreligious minorities are no longer at the margins" but making use of their talents in leadership roles. "These are times of transformation in our society and in our world," Earon declared, "about recognizing that humanity is a family – and that Rotary has an important role in creating, building, and investing in our common kinship on our common planet."



Earon's slide show reminded us of some of the highlights of this eventful year. The club was recognized with the 2019-20 District Governor citation. Because his twin themes have been

peacebuilding and racial justice, he takes particular delight in ours being the first club in Indiana to be designated a Peacebuilder Club. And the return of Raj Haddawi, M.D., to active membership has provided the momentum to create a club diversity fund.



The plaque awarded Earon for his year of leadership included this fitting tribute from the Buddha: "Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things that renew humanity."

Introducing his successor, Earon reminded us that 2020-21 President **Ashley Sullivan** has been secretary of our club and speech contest chair for District 6580. She is a Paul Harris Fellow. Ashley holds an MBA in applied management and works in resource development for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington. Because this year's RI conference in Hawaii was virtual, the club will send Ashley to next year's conference in Taipei, Taiwan, along with President-Elect **Sally Gaskill**.



Ashley announced RI's theme for this coming year: Rotary Opens Opportunities. In the words of incoming RI President Holger Knaack: "We believe that our acts of service, large and small, generate opportunities for people who need our help, and that Rotary opens opportunities for us to live a richer, more meaningful life, with friends around the world, based on our core values."

Ashley said: "I want our Club to be a resource for:

- community service opportunities;
- engaging programs that enlighten about life in our community and beyond; and
- mentoring and growth, professionally and personally."

She announced four major goals for this year:

1. increase retention and engagement of our members by developing richer mentoring connections;
2. continue the great work of peacebuilding by continued involvement in the Rotary Action Group for Peace as a Peacebuilding Club;
3. continue the essential work of increasing the inclusive and diverse makeup of our club, not solely through membership but through representation in service opportunities, events, and programs; and
4. Make Every Rotarian Every Year a reality, with every member contributing at least \$25 a year to the Rotary Foundation.

"We are exploring new ways to offer service opportunities," Ashley said, continuing our commitment to Teachers Warehouse and working with the Sunrise and North clubs.

"The value in this club," Ashley said, "is in its members and the connection that we are offered to this community and greater world."

She concluded with a final thought from RI President Holger Knaack: "Now is the time to put everything on the table, test new approaches, and prepare Rotary for the future."

## **Nuts and Bolts**

Greeters were **Jim Bright, Michael Shermis, and Ashley Sullivan**. Production supervisors were **Alain Barker and Michael Shermis. Katie Beck, Jim Bright, and Ashley Sullivan** introduced guests.

Visiting Rotarians included newly installed District **Governor Jessika Hane** and past District Governor **Sue Wright**. Other guests included former member **Elizabeth Thompson** and future member **Connie Shakalis**.

**Byron Bangert** celebrated his birthday on July 7.

**Judy Schroeder**, Reporter  
**Martha Foster**, Photographer