

ROUNDTABLE – Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Next Luncheon



Jill Bond, news editor of *The Herald Times* since April 2021, will talk about how local journalism is evolving and adapting in a changing world. Jill joined the H-T after working for the U.S. Census Bureau. She is a journalism graduate from the University of Oregon, where she worked on the staff of the *Daily Emerald*. She has also worked for the Klamath Falls (OR) *Herald and News*, and the Kokomo (IN) *Daily Tribune*. She is in Bloomington to complete work toward a Master of Public Affairs from IU's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

News of the Week



Rotary Toast: Let's make it 100 percent!

This year's Rotary Toast honoring our own **Charlotte Zietlow** is only five weeks away. President **Sally Gaskill** is looking for 100 percent of our membership to attend, either virtually or in person. The event will take place Friday, November 5, on the Bloomington campus of Ivy Tech Community College. Visit rotarytoast.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

Rotarians in the News

Inbound 2016-17 Rotary Global Grant Scholar **Kaz Fukuda** of District 2590 (Yokohama, Japan) has accepted an offer to publish his work on human rights in the *Northwestern Journal of Human Rights*. He

has also been nominated for the prestigious IU Wells Graduate Fellowship by the IU Maurer School of Law. District 6580 (Bloomington Rotary) serves as his host district.



Brown County Taste of Art

Brown County Rotarian Mike Laros encouraged members to support his club’s annual fundraiser, “A Taste of Art.” The event, which will include both live and silent auctions of original art, benefits youth programming in Brown County. It will be held Friday, October 15, at the Seasons Lodge Conference Center in Nashville. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. For more information visit RotaryClubofBrownCounty.org.

This week’s program is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/GBq5YKVV2EA>

Our Program



Judy Schroeder introduced Beth Cate, who has been a professor in the Indiana University O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs and an affiliate of IU’s Maurer School of Law since 2011.

Beth’s remarks were titled “What’s Up with the Supreme Court?” and offered members unique insights into the workings of our country’s highest court, as well as her own observations in three key areas: major cases, shadow dockets, and reform proposals studied by a presidential commission.

Cases focusing on abortion, guns, and religion present significant constitutional issues and the articulation of standards the court will address, all with an impact on future cases. As the court embarks on a new term October 4, these issues will be argued in person before the justices, the first such arguments since the COVID-19 quarantine began.

The states of Mississippi, Kentucky, and Texas all have cases before the Supreme Court challenging the principle of “undue burden” with regard to accessing women’s health and abortion services. While Beth expects expansive challenges to the landmark *Roe v. Wade*, she does not believe it will be overturned, at least in the coming term.

The right to bear arms is at the forefront of expected arguments invoking the Second Amendment. Cases decided in 2008 and 2010 upheld the right to have functional firearms in the home for self-protection but did not define what other restrictions might be imposed on access to and possession of guns. Again, the court will be challenged to articulate standards that will impact how laws are written and upheld throughout the states and territories under its jurisdiction.

The lingering concern about public taxpayer dollars funding sectarian education is at the core of a series of cases the court will consider this term. Among arguments it will hear will be the role of government in managing the path a school voucher follows as it is applied, and the fundamental right to free education when there are no public secondary schools in a given district.

Beth explained that shadow dockets (named by the son of the late IU Maurer professor Pat Baude) exist to award emergency relief from a decision handed down by a lower court until it can be more fully challenged. In the past four years alone, the rate at which these cases have been filed is 20 times higher than in the previous 16 years, leading to congressional concerns about the relative lack of analysis on cases with significant impact.

Among proposals for reform currently being studied by a presidential commission is the Supreme Court itself. Beth anticipates a recommendation for 18-year staggered, fixed terms, will be brought forth by the end of the year. It's also possible for Congress to limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, in accordance with Article III of the Constitution. It is unlikely a recommendation to increase the number of justices is forthcoming.

Beth provided this link for people who are interested in exploring further or providing comments to the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/pjscotus/>

Updates – Our September 28 Weekly Gathering

President **Sally Gaskill** welcomed members and guests. She thanked producers **Michael Shermis** and **Joy Harter**, and remote mic operators **Martha Foster** and **Earon Davis**. She also offered a special thanks to **Tim Jessen** for stepping up and agreeing to manage the 4-Way Test Speech Contest for our club.

Connie Shakalis reflected on the fun and ease of learning through MOOCs: Massive Open Online Courses. These noncredit, self-paced classes are offered by many providers, including Harvard, MIT, Yale, and Northwestern, and offer learners seemingly endless opportunities to expand their educational horizons. The learning platform may vary from provider to provider, but the ease of use makes MOOCs worth the learning curve.

This week we welcomed to our celebration of service (in the Frangipani Room) Lisa Fukuda, wife of 2016-17 inbound Rotary Global Grant Scholar **Kaz Fukuda**, student Lydia Minton, and Brown County Rotarians Mike Heil and Clara Stanley, all guests of **Jim Bright**; John Taylor, guest of **Hank Walter**; and student Ava Taylor, guest of **Art Oehmich**. Also attending on Zoom were Nancy Boerner, guest of **Judy Schroeder**; Brown County Rotarian Mike Laros; and David Willett of the Plymouth (MI) Rotary.

Best birthday wishes to **Von Welch**, Sept. 30, and **Becky Jessmer**, Oct. 1.

Membership anniversaries this week include: **Von Welch**, 2 years, **Art Oehmich**, 7 years, and **Rex Hillery**, 10 years. Thank you for being part of the Rotary family!

Reporter: **Susie Graham**