

Bloomington Rotary Club

Roundabout

September 7, 2021

Next Week's Program



Next week's program will be presented by Bloomington resident Doug Wissing, who will talk about the current situation in Afghanistan. His talk is titled "Hopeless but Optimistic, Continued."

Moving between radically disparate worlds is the modus operandi for journalist, author, and independent scholar Doug Wissing. But the true work comes in the telling: in the weaving of a complex narrative steeped in the spirit of far-flung places; a story that radiates the intense experience of going there and listening.

Educated as a historian and political scientist, Doug has scrambled over avalanche-choked passes in bandit-ridden corners of Tibet to speak with the reincarnation of a valuable source. He's gained insight into Washington insiders, Hong Kong Communist plutocrats, extreme body modifiers, modern medieval armorers, and Belgian Trappist brewers who craft the world's rarest beer. He's listened to the lives of Vietnamese Impressionist painters, maverick mycologists, and Cuban internationalists.

His thought-provoking writing and meticulous research have resulted in eight books and landed his unique perspective in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Foreign Policy*, *salon.com*, and on BBC and NPR networks, as well as in tastemaker journals from *ARTnews* to *Saveur*. His award-winning articles and radio stories on Afghanistan have attracted wide attention among U.S. policy-makers.

This Week's News

Rotary Book Club has a date: Thursday, October 14, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. We'll be discussing Jim Madison's recent book, *The Ku Klux Klan in the Heartland*. Stand by for the link.



Rotary Toast 2021. **Jim Bright** announced that members are receiving an email with an invitation to purchase a ticket for the Rotary Toast on November 5. A joint project of the three Bloomington Rotary Clubs, this year's Toast has three goals: honor **Charlotte Zietlow** for her "service above self," raise money for Habitat for

Humanity of Monroe County; and heighten awareness of Rotary. Tickets for the in-person event are \$100; “view only” tickets are \$25. Seventy-five members of our club attended last year’s virtual Toast. Jim challenged us to top that number! Register at rotarytoast.com.

This Week’s Program. Available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/zLHRcwZtAHM>



Byron Bangert introduced member **John VanderZee**, his friend and colleague for more than 30 years. In 1989, Byron was a member of the search committee for the first-ever chaplain at Bloomington Hospital. John was the “clear choice,” and the hospital benefited from his work for 24 years, with his knowledge of ministering to people with chronic illnesses. After John retired in 2014, he preached in a number of Presbyterian congregations and recently launched a consulting business, Along the Way Coaching.

At his first in-person Rotary meeting since the pandemic, John spoke about “Negotiating Life’s Transitions.” He noted that some have written about the seven stages of life – discovering the world as toddlers, coming of age as teens, finding purpose and career in early adulthood, enjoying mid-life in 40s and 50s, retiring in 60s, and achieving the age of enlightenment in 70s and 80s. **[See above: part of 22-foot sculpture of seven faces of man, as described by Shakespeare, outside British Museum.]** In fact, he said, life is often disordered, not linear, with many detours and setbacks. Transitions can be a time of discovery or disenchantment. He told the story of his own choice to leave the Dutch Reformed Church, after a painful moment when he realized his outlook had expanded and changed.

John invited members and guests to sit straight, close our eyes, take a deep breath, and think of a life event that prompted us to change and led to who we are now. Bring a person to mind, he suggested. What actions did you take? What gains did you make? What losses? With whom did you share the experience? How has your life changed? After a moment, he asked us to choose a word to describe the experience. “Emotional,” “affirming,” “gratifying” were three of the words volunteered.

John works with people who want to change and need to discover how to go about it. The need may arise from a new career, a desire to find time for healthier living, or a life transition like retirement, divorce, death of a loved one. As a coach, he asks questions to lead his clients to make choices for themselves.

Rotarians asked questions:

Q: There is nothing normal about these days. Are you finding your clients need help coping? A: Some might think they are too busy to seek a coach, while others see an opportunity to make a change and improve their lives.

Q: I work with students every day, counseling them and giving them advice. Is there a way people like me can learn about and employ coaching? A: Coaching is different from counseling, because I do not give advice. I just

ask questions which lead my client to reflect and arrive at solutions. The best place to learn more is the International Coaching Federation.

Q: In a nutshell, is it “helping others help themselves?” A: Yes, well said. I’ll put that in my next presentation!

Q: Is there an accrediting organization? A: Yes, there are several. I am working on associate certification through the International Coaching Federation; beyond that are “professional” and “master” levels.

Our Weekly Gathering, September 7

President **Sally Gaskill** welcomed members and guests to Bloomington Rotary Club’s weekly Celebration of Service.

Members enjoyed 15 seconds of respectful silence in the presence of the American flag.

Tim Jessen offered a reflection on the contrast between the mood of the country in the days following September 11, 2001, and now. He urged us to think of ourselves “not as enemies, but simply competitors, doing our best.”

Sally welcomed **Len Tieman**, who is transferring to our club from the Bloomington Sunrise Club.

Paul Casey was the guest of **Tim Jessen**; Allison Bielawa accompanied **Art Oehmich**; Josh Johnson was guest of **Aaron Brewington**; and Sarah McKenney, daughter of **John VanderZee**, was the guest of **Leslie Green**.

Sally thanked producer **Michael Shermis**, Zoom manager **Joy Harter**, remote mic team **Martha Foster** and **Jim Bright**, and **Sara Laughlin**, who was both greeter and *Roundabout* reporter.

Birthdays this week include:

- **Earon Davis**, September 7
- **Jon Dilts**, September 7
- **Kate Cruikshank**, September 9
- **Alain Barker**, September 12
- **Betsy Trotzke**, September 12
- **Wendell St. John**, September 12

No membership anniversaries this week.

Reporter: **Sara Laughlin**