

Bloomington Rotary Club ~ April 29, 2025

ROUNDAABOUT



Next week's program

Join us Tuesday, May 6, in the Frangipani Room or on Zoom

(https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ucu-sqD8jGtRD9cv8m5jRCI_vw8ukpApJ). Our speaker will be **Steve Bryant**, executive director of the Gayle and Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship at Ivy Tech Community College and regional director for the South Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Title of his talk: "Small Business Trends 2025."

Steve and his team of advisers work to help start and grow businesses in a 10-county region along the I-69 corridor, and they support Ivy Tech Entrepreneurship Program students looking to start or grow their businesses in the area.

This week's news

Zoom link to the recording: https://youtu.be/WzYScuT-J_A

New board members chosen

At the April 29 meeting Past President **Ron Barnes** presented the slate of officers and directors for 2025-26. The club elected **Steve Wickes**

President; **Sam Ujdak**, President-Elect; **Traci Jovanovic**, Immediate Past President; **John Zody**, Treasurer; and **Mark Peterson**, Secretary.

Also elected were new directors **Heidi Schultz** and, for a two-year term, **Caleb Poer**. Returning directors include **Andrea Murray**, **Jeff Richardson**, **Lynn Schwartzberg**, **Jim Shea**, and **Jim Sims**. Leaving the board are **Claire Kest**, **Liz Feitl**, **Amy Osajima**, and **Ron Barnes**.



Bloomington Rotary lands Club Excellence Award for 2024-25

Bloomington Rotary was one of 13 Southern Indiana Rotary clubs to receive the Club Excellence Award (formerly called the Club Citation Award) for 2024-25.

The award recognizes clubs for setting, tracking, and meeting goals that include increasing membership, developing sustainable service projects, giving to the Foundation, and building awareness of Rotary in our community.

Club members attending the April 26 conference, from left: **Alain Barker**, **Dhakhir Abdullah**, **Traci Jovanovic**, **Joy Harter**, **Natalie Blais**, **Jim Bright**. Not shown: **Steve Wickes**, **Lance Eberle**



Congratulations to Joy Harter on receiving the 2025 Judy Bush Leadership Award, named for the late past district governor, at the All-Indiana Rotary District Conference.

Joy, who joined our club in 2006, has served in many leadership roles. As our 2014-15 president, she added “Is It Fun?” as the fifth element of our Four-Way Test.

A past assistant district governor, she was RYLA chair and co-chair from 2014-15. She has served as a Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) facilitator since 2018.

This year, Joy partnered with the Sunrise club to reintroduce the inbound Rotary Youth Exchange program, enabling us to welcome a high school student from Taiwan.

Joy’s infectious “can do” attitude and her ability to uplift those around her make her a beacon for positive thinking and inspiration.

In memoriam – Mary Goetze, Glen Steenberger, and Lee Witt were among the more than two dozen Southern Indiana Rotarians remembered at the All-Indiana District Conference last Saturday in Indianapolis.



Fellow Rotarian **Elizabeth Thompson** is moving to Burlington, Vt., where she will become executive director of a surgical center. Elizabeth previously was executive administrator in health care management at IU Health Bloomington. Earlier, she was executive director of Volunteers in Medicine.

In 2016, Elizabeth was co-chair of the Southern Indiana Rotary District Conference.

“Vermont is lucky to be getting Elizabeth, and we will miss her,” President Traci Jovanovic said. “We wish her good luck in her new role and in her adoption into a new Rotary club family.”



Fellow Rotarian **Jill Bond**, news director at [The Herald-Times](#), has been named editor of [The Register-Guard](#) in Eugene, Ore. She will begin her new job on June 2. After graduating from the University of Oregon, Jill covered city government and agriculture at the *Herald and News* in

Klamath Falls before being promoted to editing roles, including news editor, where she shepherded news coverage and coached reporters.

Jill worked as metro editor at the *Kokomo Tribune* for three years before moving to Bloomington to obtain a master's degree in public affairs from Indiana University. In 2021, she joined the *Herald-Times*, owned by Gannett Co., also the parent company of the *Register-Guard*.



Congratulations to Bloomington Rotary President Traci Jovanovic on receiving Beacon Inc.'s Jim Harvey Award for Leadership. Traci is co-chair of the organization's campaign to raise money to build Beacon's new center that will provide a wide range of services for people experiencing homelessness. The award is named for longtime Rotarian/Beacon supporter **Jim Harvey**.

This week's program: Award-winning cartoonist salutes comics



When U.S. Rep. John Lewis visited the IU Auditorium in 2015 to discuss his award-winning autobiography, *March*, he was accompanied by co-author Andrew Aydein and award-winning graphic artist/cartoonist Nate Powell.

Nate, who began self-publishing comics as an Arkansas teenager in 1992, had just illustrated the book, and the congressman and his collaborators were there to talk about it. The event coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery march that Lewis co-led, changing our country's history.

Nate estimates he created 300 real-life historical figures for the *March* trilogy.

The scene where Lewis meets Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for the first time was the first page that Nate drew for *March*. While he found approaching that page most difficult, he says it made subsequent depictions of real-life people easier.

On April 29, Nate spoke at Bloomington Rotary after receiving an invitation from **Sally Gaskill**, who co-chaired the 2015 event.

While Nate has gained fame through other graphic books, including his adaptation of James Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, he says he is still best known for his work with Lewis.

The 2015 IU Auditorium crowd is Nate's second largest audience of all time.

"I make a lot of books, and I work seven days a week," says Nate, who has called Bloomington home for 21 years. "There isn't a lot of money in comics. You have to love what you do."

During a 15-minute Q&A, Nate addressed Rotarians' questions. Among other things, he said:

- It was difficult initially to find a publisher to accept his work.
- He does an equal number of fiction and nonfiction books.
- Cartoonists are often the first to be let go at newspapers.
- Japanese (especially), European, and Brazilian audiences are much quicker to accept cartoons than are Americas.
- He occasionally hears from Nazis, white supremacists, and fascists.

"I avoid taking the bait," Nate says. "I abide by the rule that you can't win a debate with a fascist."

April 29 Celebration of Service

Thought for the Day: Alain Barker, born and reared in South Africa, called on Rotarians to live out our values through the 4-Way Test, opening ourselves to the deeper humanity of all around us and connecting to those we don't understand.

In 1990, a year after he became president, South Africa's F.W. de Klerk took the courageous step to once and for all let go of the past by releasing Nelson Mandela from prison. This led to the abolition of apartheid and a path that would lead to the country's first democratic election.

"We can play our part in a world where the name of freedom and democracy can be kept alive," Alain said.

Cindy Brumbarger reflected on the amazing cycling success of David Brailsford, director for British Cycling and general manager of cycling's

Team Sky. When Sir David became head of British Cycling in 2002, the team had almost no record of success in its 76-year history. Under Sir David's leadership, that quickly changed. At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, his squad won seven out of 10 gold medals available in track cycling, an achievement they matched at the London Olympics four years later. Sir David now leads Britain's first ever professional cycling team, which has won three of the last four Tour de France events.

His secret? Sir David applied a theory of marginal gains to cycling. He gambled that if the team broke down what goes into competing on a bike and then improved each element by just one percent, it would achieve a significant aggregated increase in performance.

If we, like Sir David, change little bitty things over time, we, too, can have a true impact, Cindy said.

Claire Kest introduced guests Nathan Raben, guest of **Craig Spence**; Karen Bush Watts and Kathryn Brown, guests of **Judy Schroeder**; Heather Williams, guest of **Dhakir Abdullah**; and Rotaractors **Ahmat Aljamal** and **Yehya Kader**. A guest online was Sarah Owen, guest of **Michael Shermis**.

BIRTHDAYS: Ruth Boshkoff 4/29, Andrea Murray 4/28.

ROTARY Anniversaries: Natalie Blais, 7 years; Glenda Murray, 34 years; Joyce Poling, 36 years

Acknowledgments

- Executive Asst: Natalie Blais
- Greeter: Steve Moberly
- Introductions: Claire Kest
- Zoom Host: Leslie Kustenkow
- Reflection: Cindy Brumbarger
- Camera/Mic Operator: Marilyn Wood
- Zoom and Audio Producer: Isaac Smith

Reporter: Jim Bright