

Bloomington Rotary Club

Roundabout

May 20, 2025

Next Week's program



Our next meeting will be May 27 in the Frangipani Room. Our speaker will be **Caleb Poer** discussing “painting a shared vision: the Duke Substation mural.” He has been a member of our club since 2023.

Caleb’s work has been featured in public art displays at venues, including the IFell Building, John Waldron Arts Center, and BUTTER 3.

In 2022 and 2024, Caleb received the Emerging Artist Grant. He serves on the John Waldron Arts Center’s visual arts committee and volunteers at the IFell building.

This Week's News

INDUCTION CEREMONY:



Lori Garraghty and **Shelli Yoder** led the induction of a new member, Jim Griffith, along with an organizational membership for the American Red Cross Indiana District Southeast Chapter.

Jim has been with the Red Cross since 2006. He is executive director of the southeast district, which includes 25 counties. He's based in Bloomington.

He has held several positions with the Red Cross and has worked in Indiana, Texas, Iowa, South Carolina and Georgia. His most recent job was in Baghdad. His wife is a lieutenant colonel in the Army. They have two grown sons.

Vibrant Club Workshops

District Governor Mandy Lohrum has invited Rotarians to the Vibrant Club Workshops on May 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ivy Tech in Bloomington. She says the event is especially important to club officers and emerging leaders who want to enhance their leadership skills. To register, go to

<https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77814356>

If you have questions, contact Mandy at mandylohrum6580@gmail.com or Bettye Dunham at bdunham@rauchinc.org.

This Week's Program



Tim Jessen introduced State Senator **Shelli Yoder**, a Democrat from Bloomington. She serves as minority leader for the Senate Democratic Caucus in a legislature that has super-majorities of Republicans in both chambers. She works as a senior lecturer at the IU Kelley School of Business and served on the Monroe County Council before being elected to the legislature. Shelli has been a member of our club since 2013.

Before reviewing the 2025 legislative session, Shelli noted the policies passed at the Statehouse are not abstract ideas. They have real impact on Hoosiers. She divided this year's legislative work product into The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.

She started with The Good. She highlighted successful bills that added a quicker path to becoming a licensed practical nurse, thus addressing the nursing shortage and reducing potential college debt; could lead to increased flexibility and thus access to high quality childcare for parents; improved renters' rights; removed fentanyl test strips from being labeled illegal paraphernalia; strengthened privacy protections for DNA materials; allowed foster kids to open bank accounts; strengthened the Lifeline Bill; and allowed for yellow dots on vehicles to prompt first responders to look for medical information faster.

Under The Bad, she mentioned Senate Bill 2 on Medicaid. She said the new law puts bureaucracy over care. She summarized it this way: it increases administrative costs, limits care and threatens coverage for thousands of people who have low income.

The Ugly list started with bills she said show that education is under attack. She said the legislature is running "a fast race backwards in destabilizing education." She said this year's session dismantles decades of progress to fight "-isms" such as racism and sexism; undermines efforts to recruit teachers of color; removes local control over schools by allowing unregulated expansion of charter schools; politicizes school board elections; forces school corporations that pass successful referendums to share the taxpayers' money with voucher schools. She also said the legislature has turned Indiana into "a 100 percent school voucher state". And she noted that funding for special education was decreased.

She said the legislature passed a state budget that slashes public health funding, flatlines public school support, defunds arts, removes civil rights commissions, cuts textbook aid, fails to fund the Medicaid waitlist and childcare assistance, guts public broadcasting, and with "zero debate" allows the governor to take over Indiana University by giving him appointment power over all members of the board of trustees.

She acknowledged the property tax relief bill will cut property taxes a small amount for most Hoosiers, but it cuts funding to local governments – who would have to pass local taxes to adequately provide services such as public safety, libraries and schools. She said instead of "relief" this is "a redistribution from working families and public services to corporations and private schools."

She encouraged those in the room – and all Hoosiers – to continue to contact their lawmakers and make their feelings known.

May 20th Celebration of Service

President Traci Jovanovic welcomed Rotarians and guests. Her Thought for the Day:

“Tyranny requires your fear, your silence, your compliance. Democracy requires your courage. Don’t let despair overcome us when our country needs us the most!” -Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker



REFLECTION: David Wright gave the reflection. He said he sees a storm on the horizon when he considers the state of world affairs. He said he understands our club tries to stay non partisan. He said the path forward for Rotarians is to follow the North Star of the club – the 4-Way test. He said words we repeat every meeting, which start with “Is it the Truth,” go on to represent diversity (does it build goodwill and better friendships), equity (is it fair to all concerned) and inclusion (is it beneficial to all concerned). He said: “We are in need of principled leadership to stand up to this growing threat. ... The storm is upon us; the core principles of this organization are under siege. The time has come for us to say our truth, and to act on it.”

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Lori Garraghty introduced the following guests: Ellen Strommen, guest of **Vivien Bridges**; Luka Jovanovic and Sadie Schmitt, guests of **Traci Jovanovic**; Sarah Mincey, guest of **Bill Brown**; Bob Bernacki, guest of **Tim Jessen**.

ROTARY BIRTHDAYS: Marci Hibbard, May 21; **Melinda Seader**, May 20; **Alyce Zollman**, May 20; **Christina Swanson**, May 24.

ROTARY ANNIVERSARY: Dr. Jerono Rotich, two years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. President Traci noted that a quick and entertaining update from our Global scholar, and someday President of the country, Noah Jager will be featured in the Roundabout. He shares insights on his spontaneous trip from Kings College to Rome for the selection of the first pope from the United States. (*EDITOR'S NOTE: His thoughts appear beneath today's acknowledgements at the end of the Roundabout*)

2. President Traci said the board spent some time at its recent meeting reviewing the accounts receivable ledger and noted a few members who are significantly delinquent on an ongoing basis. She said "While we don't want to be about money" the club needs to be fiscally prudent. To that end, the board has purchased and installed a new invoicing system that allows members to see exactly what they are paying for. In an effort to encourage people to keep their balances below 90 days, the Board approved asking our members not to bring guests and incur additional meal charges if their balance exceeds 90 days. She said: "We know that there are times when difficulties arise and are happy to address those one-off situations, but we need to get a bit tighter on the fiscal hygiene."

Acknowledgements:

- Executive Asst: **Natalie Blais**
- Greeter: **Marilyn Wood**
- Introductions: **Lori Garraghty**
- Zoom Host: **Leslie Kutsenkow**
- Reflection: **David Wright**
- Reporter: **Bob Zaltsberg**
- Camera/Mic Operator: **Michael Shermis**
- Zoom and Audio Producer: **Tylar Martin Nichols**

Noah Jager on the Pope Leo the 14th

“Habemus Papam!!”



These were the words chanted throughout St. Peter's Square as white smoke billowed from the chimney atop the Sistine Chapel. Surrounded by tens of thousands of Catholics from around the globe, I joined in the chorus, chanting this phrase, meaning “We have a Pope” in Latin. As the refrain echoed throughout the Vatican, church bells rang, flags were waved, and strangers embraced one another like old friends. It was a moment so full of energy and emotion that I could only respond with a smile from ear to ear. For many around me, those smiles even turned into tears of joy.

Just days earlier, I was sitting in the library when I received a spontaneous message from a friend who is studying alongside me at King's College London. He said, “Guess where I'm headed? The Conclave! Come stay with me and my family in Rome.” Less than 48 hours later, with nothing but the outfit I had on and a backpack filled with a change of clothes, I set out from London with the hope that my friend and I would see the next pope elected. Little did I know that I was flying into one of the most powerful and unforgettable moments of my life.

After my friend's family welcomed me like one of their own in Rome, we all made our way to the Vatican, where chants of the Cardinals surrounded us as they processed into the Basilica. As the Church doors locked, sealing the cardinals inside, goosebumps rose on my

arms. Although we witnessed black smoke from the chimney that night, the anticipation and unity of faith were on full display among the spectators gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The next day, we returned to the Vatican together, where, as you know, the first American pope was elected on the fourth vote. While our feet ached and our legs were tired from standing on the square all day, none of that seemed to matter when Pope Leo stepped onto the balcony of the Basilica for the first time. Priests, nuns, and Catholics from around the world erupted with joy while jumping, hugging one another, and waving to the newly elected pope. As Pope Leo addressed the crowd in Italian and Spanish, I didn't understand a word, but I didn't need to. I could see the smiles, hear the cheers, and feel the faith of those surrounding me.

The Holy Spirit was undoubtedly present in that square. You could feel it. People from all over the world waved flags from every continent, but the universal faith of Catholicism united us all. Different languages were spoken, yet faith created a connection that needed no words. Standing among thousands in the heart of the Catholic world, I felt not just part of history, but part of something holy, something far greater than myself.

I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have witnessed such a sacred and unifying moment.

Habemus Papam!!