

January 16, 2024
Roundabout

Next Meeting



Earon Davis, past president of the Bloomington Rotary Club, is a trans-disciplinary researcher and writer, retired lawyer and professor, and award-winning public and environmental health advocate and nonprofit professional. He was born to a working-class Jewish family in Chicago, with immigrant grandparents. Earon’s education is in sociology, law, and public health. He has served as a consultant, project manager, journalist, hearing officer, executive director, integrative health practitioner and board member, having parented three children while working part-time. Earon and his wife and fellow Rotarian, Martha Foster, have lived in Bloomington, Indiana since 2012. Earon has taught at IU and Purdue Global. He belongs to Congregation Beth Shalom, the local NAACP chapter, and UU Congregation, with additional interfaith, peacebuilding, and community activities, including the Rotary Action Group for Peace. Join Earon for *A Jew in the World: It's Complicated!* The meeting will be held in the Frangipani Room and on Zoom.

This Week’s News

Join Aaron Brewington at the Freezefest “Chilly” Cook-off tonight

This evening, **Aaron Brewington** will be one of 24 chefs participating in the Freezefest Chilly Cook-Off at The Mill. He's been tinkering with his recipe for decades and won a couple amateur cook-offs. Now he's competing against the pros. And, yes, it's vegan.

The cook-off and the ice sculptures are the first big events of the city’s annual Freezefest. The event runs 5-7 p.m. Thursday, January 18. Proceeds go to Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard.

January 16 Program



Amy Osajima introduced **Abby Gitlitz**, the founder and executive director of the Bloomington Creative Glass Center, located in Bloomington on Grimes Lane near the B-Line Trail. Abby had a variety of professional experiences prior to leading the Creative Glass Center, working as a pastry chef at Tina's, an EMT, and a Turkish tapestry sales person in central Turkey.

Abby described herself a person who likes to jump into projects, knitting a cable-knit sweater as her first knitting project and creating a rug after watching a Turkish woman weave at an exhibit. Abby first fell in love with glass after experiencing glass arts at Cedar Point amusement park.

Abby attended MIT's noncredit glass program to learn, became a full-time artist, and later moved to New Orleans to run a glass blowing studio there. When Katrina hit, she was suddenly one of a million people unhoused with nearly no possessions. She then attended a glass master's program at Southern Illinois University and enjoyed teaching, before ultimately returning to her hometown of Bloomington.



Abby started the glass pumpkin patch in Bloomington, inspired by another glass pumpkin patch at the Bay Area Glass Institute. The first patch had 198 pumpkins all made by Abby. A friend

bought a pumpkin and asked if Abby could teach him glasswork, and the Bloomington Creative Glass Center was born.

They started driving to the glass studio in Indianapolis, bringing others to learn how to blow glass pumpkins. This started a community and led to the formation of the Bloomington studio.

Abby said that glass blowing is a team sport, with people of all backgrounds working together with materials that are very dangerous. The center embraces a culture of sharing ideas and celebrating mistakes. There is a mentorship program that pairs students at different levels. The center actively seeks to connect with marginalized groups that would not typically have access to glass blowing.

The center has experienced significant growth. In 2010, the center had one glass blower. Now it has 15 staff, 150 volunteers, and more than 4,000 students.

Students as young as 5 and as old as 98 are taking classes at the Bloomington Creative Glass Center. The center offers classes, summer camps, school programs, Ivy Tech programs, IU class partnerships, community events, Lotus Fest activities, the great glass pumpkin patch, and a spring culture event. Learn more at <https://www.bloomingtoncreativeglasscenter.org/>.

Watch the presentation on You Tube at <https://youtu.be/0PobMv7Jtfg>.

January 16 Celebration of Service

Alain Barker, past president, presided and opened with a thought of the day shared by President **Ron Barnes** from Eleanor Roosevelt: "You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself."

Mike Baker offered the reflection. He said that in the military, the average age of flight deck crew on a carrier is 19 and the average age of a captain is 25. Most people in the military serve because they have been asked, not because of a political agenda. Mike asked that we keep the men and women who are in conflict in our thoughts.

Mike Baker introduced guests.

- Jen Berry, guest of **Yolanda Treviño**
- Tiffany Nichols, guest of **Liz Irwin**
- Jun Wong, Rotaract
- Yehya Kader, Rotaract

Birthdays

- **Eric Powell**, January 17
- **John Bender**, January 19
- **Mary Goetze**, January 20

Member Anniversaries

- **Lance Eberle**, 22 years

Greeter: **Amy Osajima**

Introductions: **Mike Baker**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Reflection: **Mike Baker**

Camera/Mic Operator: **Traci Jovanovic**

Zoom and Audio Producer: **Tylar Martin-Nichols**

Photographer: **Jim Bright**

Reporter: **Kyla Cox Deckard**