

January 9, 2024
Roundabout

Next Meeting



We are anticipating bitterly cold weather conditions next week. Please watch your email for any changes to plans for the in-person meeting option on January 16.

Our speaker will be Abby Gitlitz, the founder of the Bloomington Creative Glass Center. This nonprofit organization is committed to bringing affordable, high-quality education about glass to people in southern Indiana. The center is open to any and all who have an interest in hot glass, regardless of age or experience. Join Abby for “Through the Looking Glass: A Reflection on Creating Community through Glass.” The meeting is scheduled for the Frangipani Room and on Zoom.

This Week’s News

Thanks to bell ringers

Thank you to the following Bloomington Rotarians who rang the Salvation Army bells in one-hour shifts on four different Saturdays in December in the lobby at the Bloomington Kroger store on College Mall Road. All the money deposited in the red kettles stays in Bloomington to help children in need to receive warm clothing, toys, and food at Christmas.

The 2023 bell ringers were Dhakir Abdullah (2 shifts), Mike Baker, Janne Blessmann, Jim Bright, Peggy Frisbie, Joy Harter, Rex Hillery, John Hobson and Jane Perry, Steve Ingle, Traci Jovanovic, Temur Kadirov, Sara Laughlin (2 shifts), Dave Meyer, Bill Murphy, Cindy Neidhart, Art Oehmich, Scott Shackelford and family, Connie Shakalis, Jim Shea, Winston Shindell, Tina Swanson, Steve Wickes, Judy Witt, and James Wolf. Steve Moberly was the ring leader.

January 9 Program



Theresa Claire introduced **Bill Bennett**. Bill leads IU Travels, which brings together faculty, alumni, and students to continue their educational experience through travel. He previously directed Monroe Bank's travel program. He has led travel groups to more than 60 countries during his career. In November 2022, he and a group embarked on a journey to Antarctica, "the white continent."

Bill said very few have the privilege to travel to Antarctica, and people have been traveling there for only the last 50 years. Now, about 50,000 travelers visit per year. The IU group was joined by groups from Duke University and the San Francisco Zoo, among others.

Antarctica is the fifth largest continent. If it were free of ice, its land mass would cover about 5.5 million square miles. Last year, the ice sheet—the largest single piece of ice in the world—grew only about 80 percent of its usual winter size, which is concerning and could have grave outcomes for wildlife and our planet.

It is a politically neutral continent, and research can be conducted there only for peaceful purposes. There are no permanent residents, but there is a Rotary Club presence at a research station near the South Pole.

Bill described traveling the Drake Passage, which is known for its fierce ocean conditions, in 10- to 14-meter waves. Coastal temperatures range from 22°F to as high as 40°F in the summertime. Inland runs as low as -76°F to as high as -4°F in the summertime. Ninety percent of the world's ice is part of Antarctica. Despite the massive amount of ice, Antarctica is one of the driest places on earth and is considered the largest desert.

Bill guided Rotarians through a slideshow of visual delights, including images of Antarctica's wildlife. Four species of penguins live on the continent: the Adélie, gentoo, chinstrap, and emperor. Bill said that emperor penguins are considerably endangered, and colonies are collapsing. The fishing of krill, often used for fish oil supplements, is depleting their food sources. Bill advised Rotarians to pay attention to the source listed on fish oil supplements and avoid those that use krill.

You can view the presentation on You Tube at <https://youtu.be/O0NC81YTkQs>.

January 9 Celebration of Service

Alain Barker, past president, presided and opened with a thought of the day shared by President **Ron Barnes** from William James: "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

Jon Dilts, chair of the Bloomington Rotary Peacebuilding Committee, offered the reflection. In 1968, Jon joined the Peace Corps to teach English in western Samoa. The draft board had different plans for Jon, however. Within days, he found himself on a bus headed to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Jon described the relationship between Rotary and the Peace Corps in promoting humanitarian service and peace around the world. Rotary International also has partnerships with other groups, like Habitat for Humanity, Toastmasters, Shelter Box, Mediators Beyond Borders, and the Institute for Economics and Peace. The Institute for Economics and Peace facilitates the [Rotary Positive Peace Academy](#) open to Rotarians. The [Community Justice and Mediation Center](#) in Bloomington offers a course that begins on February 1 this year. Jon implored Rotarians, "Let's work for peace."

Hank Walter introduced guests.

- Thomas Horrocks, guest of **Jim Bright**
- Robert Woolford, guest of **Wendell St. John**
- Ayomide Arowosegbe, Rotaract
- Yehya Kader, Rotaract
- Britt Magaw, guest of **Aaron Brewington**
- Jill Bond (online), guest of the club

Birthdays

- **Alex Crowley**, January 7
- **Chaz Mottinger**, January 11
- **Hank Walter**, January 11

Member Anniversaries

- **Michelle Cohen**, 1 year
- **Kyla Cox Deckard**, 12 years
- **Roy Graham**, 1 year
- **Jillian Rich**, 1 year
- **Scott Shackelford**, 6 years
- **Gus Shakalis**, 8 years
- **Jim Shea**, 12 years

Greeter: **Dhakhir Abdullah**

Introductions: **Hank Walter**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Reflection: **Jon Dilts**

Camera/Mic Operator: **Theresa Claire**

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

Photographer: **Jim Bright**

Reporter: **Kyla Cox Deckard**