

Bloomington Rotary Club
December 10, 2024
Roundabout

NEXT LUNCHEON



Catch the train to memory lane as our own **Glenda Murray** will present Rotary home movies at our next meeting Dec. 17 in the Frangipani room.

Glenda knows her history stuff, having served on the board, on committees and as a volunteer at the Monroe County History Center for the last 30 years. In 2019 Glenda was appointed Monroe County Historian by the Indiana Historical Society. She has presented some historical info to most of the Leadership Bloomington Monroe County classes for about 20 years and occasionally speaks to other groups about local history.

Glenda moved to Bloomington in 1984, where she served as the director of the Redevelopment Department for the city of Bloomington, working on downtown revitalization under Mayor Tomi Allison. Glenda served as president of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce from 1991-94. Glenda then worked at IU from 1994 until her retirement in 2014, serving in staff positions at the School of Continuing Studies and the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions.

Glenda grew up in Sparta, Illinois. She graduated from Illinois Wesleyan and earned an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas.

NEWS OF THE WEEK



Bell ringers are everywhere! We had great turnout for our annual support of the Salvation Army's fundraising efforts.

Our Holiday Party is tonight at the Country Club. We have about 85 guests listed from our club and Bloomington rotary North so it should be a great time!

Letters are going out regarding the Bloomington Rotary Foundation's efforts to build the endowment fund underwriting our local scholarships. Participation if you are able will help local students achieve their education. Your gifts will be greatly appreciated.

GUEST SPEAKER



Bill Brown introduced our speaker. **Denny Spinner** of The Center for Rural Engagement told us how, through the 2030 Plan, the center pairs IU students and faculty with rural communities to run projects that benefit people in health, the arts, education, housing and more.

Originally endowed by Lilly, the Center is funded by IU, state and federal grants, private foundations and individual gifts. Challenges in rural areas include housing, retaining college graduates, and giving residents and visitors a reason to choose rural communities to live.

Some of the projects have included developing pocket parks or wayfinding signs for small communities, things that make small towns more appealing to visitors and residents alike. A library science student is documenting the history of the town Santa Claus. And in the tiny town of Crane (it is near the Crane base and has 200 residents) a project rehabilitated an ancient town trolley to serve as a gateway to the town. "It lifted the spirits of the community," Denny said.

He gave an account of the ALASI project, a four-year effort to connect the Latino community in rural Indiana to the resources they need.

During the questions, he said that the efforts to help the Latino folks stay in Indiana on a legal basis are underway, but the future is unsure for some of them.

A donation of \$100 per quarter will be given to the Bloomington Refugee Project in honor of Denny's program.

View the meeting here: <https://youtu.be/Bw7sRbdbH-U>

MEETING UPDATES

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

President **Traci Jovanovic** explained that the thought was brought to us by Copilot-Prompt, and was Inspiration as a Rotarian:

"Service Above Self" is not just a motto, but a way of life. As Rotarians, we have the unique opportunity to make a positive impact on our communities and the world. Every act of kindness, no matter how small, creates ripples of change. Let's embrace our roles as catalysts for good, and remember that together, we can achieve extraordinary things.

REFLECTION

Past president **Sara Laughlin** gave a moving account of her year of presidency, 2015-2016. It happened that her husband was diagnosed with cancer that year and her president-elect died. She told how the past presidents rallied around to support and help her and the club held its first Toast event, honoring Dr. Larry Rink. She said she will remember the year as an inspiration of friendships and service.

GUESTS

Judy Schroeder introduced Sarah Greenwell, guest of Jim Bright; Jun Won, of Rotaract; Carolyn and Terry Frey of Sunrise Rotary Club; Ahmad Aljamal of Rotaract, and Farah Arafa of Rotaract.

ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

Michael Shermis 12/10, Natalie Blais 12/11, Grier Carson 12/12, and Jim Sims 12/12

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

Trent Deckard 8 years, Winston Shindell, 42 years

Two of our members were in the news recently. **Isak Asare** challenged the Bloomington City Council's plan to more than double its salaries, and **Michael Shermis** helped pass a local ordinance requiring local businesses to use closed captioning on TVs.

A reminder: There will be no meetings Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Enjoy the time with your families and friends.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CLUB SERVICE

Executive Assistant: **Natalie Blais**

Greeter: **Steve Moberly**

Introductions: **Judy Schroeder**

Reflection: **Sara Laughlin**

Introduction of speaker: **Bill Brown**

Zoom Host: **Lori Garraghty**

Reporter: **Andrea Murray**

Camera /mic operator: **Stacy Bruce**

Zoom and Audio producer: **Tylar Martin Nichols**