

**Roundabout**  
**December 6, 2022**

**Next Meeting**



Our December 13 guest speaker will be Sherri Tredway, executive director of *LIFEDesigns*. Sherri's talk is titled "Developmental Services: A New Partnership to Enhance Services to People with Disabilities." Sherri lives in Washington, Ind., and has been a Rotary member since 2016. We'll meet in the Georgian Room and on Zoom.

December 13 will be our last meeting of 2022. We will take a two-week break and return to the Georgian Room on January 3, 2023.

**This Week's News**



**New members.** Theresa Claire inducted two new members: **Steve Wickes**, whose sponsor is **Sally Gaskill**, and **Isaac Washington** whose sponsor is **Jim Sims**.

**Steve** is a New Jersey native and attended IU, receiving his BS in Business in 1980. In 1999 Steve earned an MBA with Honors from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He spent 30 years in agricultural commodity processing, the last 17 years as president of Agricolor Inc., a Marion, Ind., dry corn miller. Away from work, Steve volunteered in the Marion/Grant County community as a youth soccer coach, soccer club treasurer, church planning/finance committee member, VP/board member for the Grant County Economic Growth Council, and

secretary/board member for Marion General Hospital. Steve and his wife, Lisa, whom he met at an IU basketball game, have three children and three grandchildren. Steve and Lisa moved to Bloomington after he retired in 2020. He envisions Rotary as a means to discover and serve Bloomington/Monroe County.

**Isaac** is the leisure sales manager for French Lick Resorts, where he is tasked with expanding the brand into the minority business market. He has developed a network of minority business owners who are bringing a diverse clientele to French Lick Resorts. He was born and raised in Northern California before being drafted to play minor league baseball for the New York Yankees organization. After being released, he played four years of football for Indiana University in Bloomington, where he met Rhonda, his wife of 30 years. They are the proud parents of three grown sons and a daughter who will graduate from high school this year. Isaac is an active member of the Bloomington community. He has coached numerous sports teams, including 20 years as the head football coach at Jackson Creek Middle School. In 2015, Isaac was awarded the Monroe County Mayor's Star of the Community Award for his contributions to youth sports.

## **News of our members**

Congratulations to **Theresa Claire**, director of financial education at Hurlow Wealth Management Group. She achieved CAP Professional Designation this past week. As a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy, she's now even more qualified to consult on best strategies for philanthropic planning.

**Jim Sims** was featured in an article in the B Square Bulletin online news site this week, announcing that he has decided to not run for reelection in 2023. For his years on the Bloomington City Council and as Council President since January 2021, we owe Jim a debt of thanks for his service to our community. In the article Jim talks about his work with the NAACP and Rotary as he continues to so generously serve those around him.

## **Our program: Joseph McDonnell, FBI**



**Michael Shermis** introduced **Joseph McDonnell**, supervisory senior resident agent at the FBI, who provided a fascinating inside perspective on the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

McDonnell is originally from New York. His career includes work as a New York City police officer, a special agent for the Secret Service, and 17 years with the FBI. His FBI service included stints in New York City and at FBI headquarters. For the past four years he has been

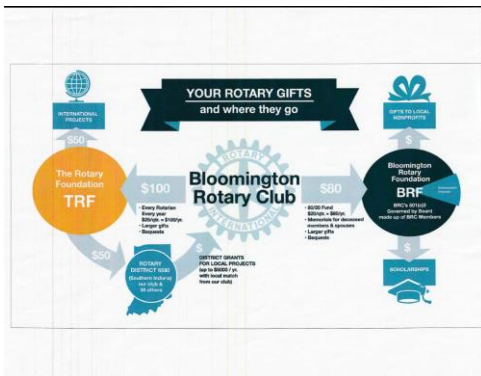
supervisor of the Indianapolis Field Office, which oversees offices in New Albany, Evansville, Bloomington, and Terre Haute. McDonnell firmly believes that the FBI's mission is to prevent, not react; therefore, it must be proactive and engaged.

He is thrilled to be in Indiana. In this smaller office, he is involved with everything from civil rights, violent crime, crimes against children, cartels, terrorism, and counterintelligence. In his previous positions in larger offices, he was assigned to a single area. His work in counterintelligence meant a lot of foreign travel. He is proud to be part of the FBI, where he has learned from other cultures. He sees how the FBI helps other countries as well as the United States.

McDonnell reiterated his need to be engaged in the community and to know leaders in each of the areas for which he is responsible. The Indianapolis Field Office serves 36 counties, and McDonnell meets with every sheriff and others to ensure they have a connection before there are any problems that might require their cooperation. The offices in Indiana must stay in touch with others in nearby cities. For instance, in addition to the Indianapolis office, Evansville works with Nashville, Tenn.; Louisville, Ky.; and St Louis, Mo., due to their proximity.

There were many questions from the audience: the number of women in the FBI, domestic terrorism threats, and how the FBI deals with suggestions of politically motivated cases. McDonnell said that the FBI is not a first responder. Everyone needs to be heard, but not all tips or complaints will lead to charges. He encouraged us all to be proactive and communicate if we see something.

## Our meeting



**President Alain Barker** welcomed a full house to the meeting and reminded the group of another celebration this week – the holiday party on Thursday evening at 6 p.m.

Just yesterday, Alain received Rotary's annual update on its Manual of Procedure, which is a lengthy guiding document, including its Guiding Principles – motto, mission, core values, etc. He highlighted for the group Rotary's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Our **reflection** was provided by **Peggy Frisbie**, Rotary Foundation committee chair, and **Loren Snyder**, president of the Bloomington Rotary Foundation. They shared an overview of the

differences between the Rotary Foundation (TRF), the charitable arm of Rotary International, and the Bloomington Rotary Foundation (BRF), which provides local support. Their graphic (above) provides additional detail identifying how money is distributed. Loren reminded everyone of the Fountain of Youth Initiative to cover scholarships. He let us know we will be hearing more early in the new year.

Updates from the **Mohammadi** family continue to flow in from this truly transformative project, with leadership from **Dave Meyer** and especially **Sara Laughlin** these past few weeks, with an extraordinary group of team members. The big news this week is that both Rahim (father) and Shams (son) have full-time jobs at IU Dining Services. Jawahir (mother) continues to explore opportunities, and Amina (daughter) is working hard on her English skills and has been visiting the Tandem Birthing Center. She's a trained midwife and is finding a pathway to become licensed and certified in the US.

Members shared **Happy Dollars** for a number of joys.

We celebrated the following **birthdays**: **Michael Shermis** on December 10 and **Natalie Blais** on December 11.

Two members also celebrated club **anniversaries**. **Jeff Richardson** celebrated his first anniversary, and **Jim Harvey** celebrated his 47th.

**Joy Harter** introduced a long list of guests including **Dhakilr Abdullah**, a Digital Public Open Scholarship fellow at IU who dropped in after seeing our welcoming signs; **Clara Stanley**, a Rotary member from Southport; **Roy Graham**, a guest of **Earon Davis**; **Brian Thomason** and **Michelle Cohen**, both guests of **Jim Bright**; **Megan Gearhart**, Rotaract past president; **Robert Althaus**, a guest of **Mary Goetze**; and **Anil Nair**, a visiting Rotarian from Connecticut.

*Roundabout* reporter: **Marilyn Wood**  
Photographer: **Alain Barker**