

Roundabout March 21, 2023

Next week's program



Grammy Award winning soprano Sylvia McNair will join us. Sylvia is in her fourth decade of professional singing. She has performed with most of the world's great opera houses and symphony orchestras, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Vienna State Opera, and the Salzburg Festival. She was a frequent guest soloist with the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the Philharmonics of Vienna and Berlin, and Carnegie Hall, singing music from Bach, Handel, and Mozart to Beethoven, Brahms, and Mahler, as well as commissions created for her.

For ten years, she served on the faculty of IU's Jacobs School of Music. Today, she is leaning into her retirement career teaching English as a New Language (ENL), working at a food pantry, serving the mission of the Refugee Support Network in her hometown, playing her violin with an elementary school program called The Violin Project, singing in a choir, and hosting a classical music radio show on the NPR affiliate WFIU.

Sylvia is an enthusiastic supporter of many nonprofits, including New Hope for Families, Habitat for Humanity, Songs By Heart, and Beacon Inc.

We'll meet in the Georgian Room and on Zoom.

News and Upcoming Events

President **Alain Barker** welcomed Rotary members and guests. He thanked **Theresa Claire** for hosting the meeting last week. According to the United Nations, Alain said, more than 2 billion people in the world lack a source of safe water at home, and as many as 4.5 billion don't have a safe sanitation system. March is the month that Rotary International spotlights Water and Sanitation, one of its seven areas of focus. He shared a short [video](#) about Rotary International's commitment to sanitation and water projects and thanked everyone for their support of RI.

Alain shared the happy news that **Bryce Bow** and his wife, Tabitha, are expecting a baby in September.

Ron Barnes attended the President-Elect Training, in Effingham, Ill., this past weekend. He was joined by District Gov. **Lance Eberle** and Assistant District Gov. **Joy Harter**.

Mike Barker, with the help of **Lynn Schwartzberg**, recognized three repeat Paul Harris Fellows: **Alain Barker** PH plus one; **Loren Snyder**, PH plus 5; and **Lance Eberle**, PH plus 7.

District Grant Ideas needed. So far, we have just one response with ideas (thanks, **Connie Shakalis**). If you know of any local partnering organization that would be interested in submitting a grant proposal, please point them to the announcement on the Bloomington Rotary Club website. Please send a note to **Geoff McKim**, **Natalie Blais**, or **Alain Barker** with any questions.

Habitat Build Update March 25, April 1

Volunteers Still Needed for Habitat for Humanity Build and Lunch Donation

Volunteers workers are still needed on [April 1](#). The shift times are 8:30 to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30. Lunch is from noon to 1 p.m. Full-day shifts are encouraged; just sign up for consecutive half-day shifts. The home is at 2010 S. Bernard Drive. Volunteer parking is available at nearby RCA Park. The work will be all indoors.

We are also organizing lunch for 40 volunteers each workday. If you cannot make or purchase the food yourself, you can donate money to pay for the lunch fixings instead. You will be contacted to arrange for payment. Sign up [here](#) to contribute to lunch. Thank you to all who have volunteered.

District Conference, April 22, Terre Haute Convention Center

Cherish the spirit of Rotary at the district level with a Saturday of informative programming and networking. Catch up on the news, reconnect with friends, and participate in a literacy service project. The Bloomington Rotary Club will pay 50 percent of the cost of any participant who has joined during the past five years. Deadline for early bird price is March 31. **Sign up [here](#).**

March 21 program

Link to the program at <https://youtu.be/AkTJq1qEhg>



Rotarian **Connie Shakalis** introduced our speaker, Barbara Leininger, and Matt Brand, her colleague and dance partner. Barbara is the owner of Arthur Murray Dance studio in Bloomington and the creator of Dancing with the Celebrities, which raised \$1.2 million over 11 years for local charities, including the Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Middle Way House, the Humane Society, and WildCare. Celebrity dancers were local individuals, willing to dance, who received free lessons and chose a charity for donations.

Barbara was born in a small town in West Virginia and had a great childhood. Her extended family included teachers, administrators, and grocers. Her father owned a television sales and repair shop. She is fond of West Virginia's beauty and still returns for visits, as do her children. In 1959 her father decided to move to Miami, where he opened a business. Despite mild culture shock because of her accent, she adjusted well. She enjoyed the sun and outdoor living. She had three children and worked for a restaurant development company.

How did she end up in Indiana? In 1992, Hurricane Andrew destroyed her home. She lived in her office and a hotel and then got a travel trailer with insurance funds. The man with whom she was living suggested they move to Indiana and open a dance studio. In 1994 they moved to Bloomington and opened a studio in Eastland Plaza. After 16 years, they moved to North College, where they are now located. Next February she will have been in business for 30 years.

Barbara fell in love with dance at the age of 4. She began with ballet, tap, and jazz. Her favorites are the bolero (a romantic dance), the West Coast Swing, and the rumba. She loves teaching people how to dance. She says it helps people to connect and become more sociable. One of her most memorable experiences was working with juveniles in detention. Under armed guards, these young men worked with women students and learned ballroom dancing and formal dances. The boys wrote thank you letters, telling her that they learned to respect women and to see themselves in a different light. Learning to dance is a life-changing experience.



Barbara and Matt then danced for us. They took requests for dances and wowed us with their performances of the cha-cha, the Argentinian tango, the waltz, salsa, and swing.

Barbara described how signaling works in dance. Dancers learn how to lead and how to be led through nonverbal signals of the leader.

Dancing is good for both the mind and body, Barbara said. It has shown to help with developmental disabilities and dementia as well as well as being aerobic. She invited all Rotarians to try dancing.

UPDATES from our Meeting

Rotarian **Bill Brown** presented our reflection. He introduced the book *What We Owe the Future*. This book has affected the way he views his own actions and how they affect the world. He shared passages from the book, which described how we are the ancients at the very beginning of history. What we do now will affect untold numbers of people in the future. We must act wisely. Few people hold the power to positively influence the future as much as we do today. Rotarians often reflect on the meaning of “all concerned.” Our work benefits the planet, and thousands of generations will be concerned with what we do. Bill asked, “What ancient history are we writing by our actions today?”

We celebrated the birthday of **Monika Kroener** and the club anniversaries of members **Steve Moberly**, 16 years, and State Sen. **Shelli Yoder**, 10 years.

Introduced by **Liz Feitl**, our guests included Morgan Webb, a guest of **Lexi Walters**; Janet Tippin, a guest of **Jim Capshew**; and Brian Smith, a guest of **Jim Bright**. **Joy Harter** introduced David Willett, who joined us on Zoom.

Dentistry Support for the Mohammadi Family

With the extraordinary generosity and commitment of resources and time from the refugee project, we have a short-term challenge. The Mohammadi family members have critical dental care needs amounting to around \$5,000 that cannot be met by their Medicaid insurance coverage. Please consider contributing toward this need and spread the word to your network of family and friends. Donations can be made on our [GoFundMe](#) page or on Sara Laughlin’s [Facebook](#) birthday fundraiser.

Acknowledgments

Greeter and Introductions:	Liz Fietl
Zoom Host:	Joy Harter
Reflection:	Bill Brown
Reporter:	Marilyn Wood
Zoom/Mic Operator:	Traci Jovanovic
Zoom and Audio Producer:	Tylar Martin-Nichols