

Roundabout April 2, 2024



Next week's program features Bruce Smail, director of the LGBTQ+ Culture Center and special assistant to the vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion at Indiana University. His career spans almost 30 years and includes experience in social justice, diversity, and advocacy in higher education and nonprofit management.

Bruce has held leadership roles at a variety of nonprofit organizations that work to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Black community, improve the health of LGBTQ people of color, and fight the AIDS epidemic in the Virgin Islands. In addition to his current position at Indiana University, Bruce's higher education management experience has included serving as director of the Cross Cultural Center at the University of California Davis, director of the GLBT Resource Center at the University of Colorado Boulder, and director of Black Student Services at Colorado State University.

As a Queer, Poz, Black, partially deaf, Caribbean man, Bruce uses his multiple identities to address social justice through intersectionality. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in leadership and change at Antioch University and is passionate about serving his communities.

The Celebration of Service will be held in the IMU's Frangipani Room and through Zoom.

This Week's News

The April 23 Celebration of Service will be held at St. Mark's Church, where the chairs of each committee will give updates on their work in our strategic plan.

New Member Inductions

Winston Shindell and **Earon Davis** welcomed two new Rotary members as well as one returning member.



Newly inducted members are, from left, Tiffany Nichols, Sue Sgambelluri, and Whitney Cordoba. Photo Charles Pearce.

Whitney Cordoba is a physician and doctoral student in epidemiology at Indiana University. She came to Bloomington in 2017 as a Fulbright Scholar to pursue a master's degree in public health. Whitney has worked and volunteered in a variety of roles in the healthcare field. For her work with survivors of war in Colombia, she was awarded the Quixote Award by the American Society of Hispanic Psychiatrists in 2022. Whitney's sponsor is **Jim Bright**.

Tiffany Nichols is the director of sales and marketing at the Hampton Inn in Bloomington. Originally from Arkansas, she moved to Indiana to attend school. Tiffany has been in the hospitality industry for more than 15 years and worked at Marriott and Hilton companies. She served in a variety of roles, progressing from front desk manager to general manager to director. Tiffany's sponsor is **Liz Irwin**.

Sue Sgambelluri is director of development for major gifts for the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University. She has been a professional fundraiser for more than 20 years. Originally from Northwest Indiana, she has lived in Bloomington since the early '90s. Sue holds a BA from Purdue University in organizational psychology and a Master of Education from Indiana University in educational leadership and policy studies. She volunteers at several local organizations, including her church and the Bloomington Redevelopment Commission. Sue recently completed a term representing District 2 on the Bloomington City Council, where she served as vice president and later as president. Sue is our newest returning member. Her sponsor is **Jeff Richardson**.

Rotary District Conference, April 20

The one-day Rotary District Conference in Evansville is just two weeks away. It is not too late to sign up for this inspiring experience where Rotarians will celebrate accomplishments, come away with ideas, meet new friends, and gain more passion for our organization. You'll connect with people of action from around the district at Rotary 6580's biggest event of the year. The word is out that either our club as a whole or an individual in our club will receive one of the eight awards

given at the conference. ***New Bloomington Rotary Club members are eligible for funding to cover conference registration!*** Please contact Natalie Blais, club executive secretary, for more information. [Registration for all Rotarians is available here >](#)

NOTE: The annual **Interact Youth Summit** will take place as an extension part of the District Conference. It's a great opportunity for our youth to come together, network, hear from inspiring speakers, and learn how Rotary can impact our Indiana communities. If you know of any high school students who might be interested, please be sure to let **Joy Harter** know - joytracy9@gmail.com.

April 2 program – Jo Throckmorton

Link to the [recording](#)



Lynn Schwartzberg introduced our speaker, Jo Throckmorton. Jo shared the story behind his recent film project about World War I: *Over There – Hoosier Heroes of the Great War*. The film, broadcast on PBS in 2023, focuses on several Hoosiers who served in the war. Jo's research on these individuals connected him to the project through the emotional experiences of interviewing families and visiting exact locations of the soldiers' deaths. Many soldiers in World War I were only 19 or 20 years old, so learning their stories was moving. For example, one soldier featured in the film was from Fountain County. He fought in all three major offensives and was killed one month before the end of the war. The soldier's body lay in a forest for two months before it was found. Jo interviewed this soldier's grand-nephew, who is currently in the service.

Jo shared two segments from the film. The first told the story of Sgt. Ernest Finley Duncan, who was from Bloomington. Ernest is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, despite a difficult decision-making process by his family whether to leave him buried in France or to bring him back to Indiana. In the spring German offensive of 1918, American and French soldiers fought together over the Marne at Château Thierry. Ernest served in the 9th Infantry and fought at the Battle of Belleau Wood. While operating a machine gun under a severe bombardment, he was wounded and died. For his bravery, he was awarded the Silver Star and the Croix de Guerre. Ernest was the first soldier from Monroe County to be killed in action in World War I.

The second segment featured Lt. Aaron Fisher, who fought in a segregated African American unit. Aaron was a Buffalo Soldier in the American Southwest and commanded a platoon in

World War I. He fought in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, where the 92nd and 93rd divisions, which were both segregated African American units, fought with the French against the Germans in the Vosges. There was a severe attack in which Aaron was wounded, but he continued to bravely lead his platoon until reinforcements came. He was evacuated to a hospital and spent the rest of the war recovering. For his bravery, he received the Distinguished Service Cross. Because of racist policies, however, he did not receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Aaron would most likely have received this honor if he had been white. This story sheds light on the inequality of the military at that time.

Jo's film is available for free at hoosierherosofwwi.com. All complete interviews and segments edited from the final film are available at this link as well.

Meeting Updates

Club President **Ron Barnes** welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared the following thought for the day from Harry Truman: "A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities, and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties."

The reflection was delivered by **Andrea Murray**. She shared her experience working for local newspapers, including the *Herald-Times*. Local news ensures an informed electorate, but what happens if local news is not reliable, timely, or accurate? With the advent of the internet, newspapers have struggled to stay afloat. The *Herald-Times* is now owned by Gannett, which is now owned by a hedge fund. Gannett recently dropped the Associated Press as a news source. On April 13 or 14, morning delivery will stop for the *Herald-Times*. More people are getting their news from the internet, especially Facebook. With all of these factors at play, it is important to take the news survey from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County so that we can know where we are getting our local news and its quality: <https://go.iu.edu/5G0o>



Almost twins: Sally Gaskill & Lynn Schwartzburg

Guests

Rosann Levy introduced Vera Murphy, guest of **Bill Murphy**; Vladan Jovanovic, guest of **Winston Shindell**; Ava Fallon, guest of **Art Oehmich**; Jim Silberstein, guest of **John Whikehart**; Barb Backler, guest of **Mary Goetze**; and Peter Haralovich, guest of **Lynn Schwartzberg**.

Member birthdays include **Sandy Keller** and **Steve Moberly** on April 1; **Geoff Bradley**, **Sara Laughlin**, and **Benjamin Pearson** on April 2; **Tina Peterson** and **LeeAnna Powell** on April 3; and **Lynn Schwartzberg** on April 4.

Member anniversaries include **Monika Kroener**, 34 years; **Christina Swanson**, 35 years; and **Charlotte Zietlow**, 36 years.

Acknowledgments

Meeting Greeter: **Winston Shindell**

Introductions: **Rosann Levy**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Reflection: **Andrea Murray**

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

Amy Kendall, reporter