

## Roundabout April 9, 2024



**Next week's program** features Carrie Stillions, executive director of Middle Way House, a social services agency dedicated to providing support services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. A social worker with more than five years of direct service experience, she is driven by social justice and takes pride in providing client-centered care for Middle Way House's clients.

Carrie is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, where she majored in social work. She is currently completing her master's degree in social work and is passionate about creating policies for sustainability, DEI, and team safety. Her program will introduce Middle Way House, the intersection of homelessness and domestic violence, and the empowerment-based, trauma-informed approach that Middle Way House takes during service provision. Middle Way House was recently selected for a \$1,000 district grant from the Sunrise Rotary Club.

The Celebration of Service will be held in the IMU's State Room East 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. Pizza will be served.

### **Paul Harris Fellows**

Mike Baker recognized four members as Paul Harris Fellows:

- Jim Harvey: Paul Harris +3
- Jeff Richardson: Paul Harris
- Alain Barker: Paul Harris +3
- Michael Shermis: Paul Harris +2



From left, Jim Harvey, Jeff Richardson, Alain Barker, and Michael Shermis receive their Paul Harris Fellow pins from President Ron Barnes.

### **Rotary Book Club**

Rotary Book Club will meet Wednesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Sally Gaskill, located at 908 S. Eagleson Ave. All Rotarians are welcome. Please let Sally know if you plan to attend. The book to be discussed is Bloomington native Michael Koryta's *So Cold the River*.

### **Rotary District Conference, April 20**

The one-day Rotary District Conference in Evansville is just one week 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](mailto:joytracy9@gmail.com).

### **Rotary Leadership Institute, May 4**

The Rotary Leadership Institute session is coming up on May 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is a dynamic and interactive program designed to enhance your leadership skills and deepen your understanding of Rotary's values and principles. Whether you're a seasoned Rotarian or new to the organization, the Rotary Leadership Institute offers valuable insights and practical strategies that can benefit you in your Rotary journey. Contact Lance Eberle at [lance.district6580@gmail.com](mailto:lance.district6580@gmail.com) for more information. [Registration is available here.](#)

### **April 9 program – Bruce Smail**

Link to the [recording](#)



**Michael Shermis** introduced our speaker, Bruce Smail, director of the LGBTQ+ Culture Center and special assistant to the vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion at Indiana University. Bruce is a DEI professional who has spent 27 years working in diversity programs. His purpose at IU's LGBTQ+ Culture Center includes creating a welcoming space for a diverse population of students. The Center has been in existence for nearly 30 years and is an important resource on the IU campus. Of 3,500 college campuses in the United States, only about 300 of them have an LGBTQ+ center.

DEI on college campuses is affected by external political situations. Bruce has worked as director of the Cross Cultural Center at the University of California Davis as well as in his current position at IU during several significant events in our country. National events, including the murder of George Floyd, anti-Asian violence, anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, and the Israel-Hamas war, have all affected students. In particular, during his time at UC Davis in 2016, the Orlando night club shooting and the presidential election occurred. His center responded by creating safe spaces where students could understand and respond to the trauma caused by these events. The LGBTQ+ Cultural Center at IU responded to recent national traumatic events by launching a year-long series that highlighted intersections of race and LGBTQ+ identities as well as other topics, such as HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, white privilege, and Black Lives Matter. The center has also launched queer dialogue spaces as well as community-centered events for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Bruce highlighted the four necessary actions that we must take to support DEI: respond immediately, create space for the community to dialogue, provide mental health support, and create opportunities to take action. He added that the need for DEI will be necessary until we can break the cycles of oppression. We all have a responsibility to create space for diverse people. To learn more about IU's LGBTQ+ Culture Center, visit [lgbtq.indiana.edu](https://lgbtq.indiana.edu).

## Meeting Updates

Club President **Ron Barnes** welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared the thought for the day from Michael Korda: “One way to keep momentum going is to have constantly greater goals.”

He presented **Amy Osajima** with Sycamore Land Trust’s donation from Rotary for the past quarter. This quarter’s donation recipient is Hoosier Hills Food Bank.

George and Christina Brenninkmeijer of the Rotary Club in Bad Camberg-Idstein in Germany gave the reflection. They showed their club’s Rotary flag and shared some information about their 50-member club. The club creates a calendar that they sell each year to raise funds for different causes. This past year, they donated the funds to an organization that teaches children to swim. The club also sells wine, and the proceeds from this fundraising effort fight human trafficking in India. The Bad Camberg-Idstein Rotary Club is a member of the Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians, which goes on many trips. George and Christina have been enjoying their time in the United States and staying with Anne and **Jim Bright**.

**Lori Garraghty** introduced Anne Bright, Allen Boyd, Christina Brenninkmeijer, and George Brenninkmeijer, guests of **Jim Bright**; and Daniel Layton, guest of **Amy Osajima**. **Joy Harter** introduced our online guest, Beverly Anderson.

**Member birthdays** include **Martha Wailes** on April 8; **Gus Shakalis** on April 9; **Don Capouch** on April 10; **Martha Foster** and **Lexi Walters** on April 11; **John Armstrong** on April 12; and **Meagan Niese** on April 13.

**Member anniversaries** include **Ron Barnes**, 40 years, and **Sam Ujdak**, 1 year.

## Acknowledgments

Meeting Greeter: **Claudia Avellaneda**

Introductions: **Lori Garraghty**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Reflection: **George and Christina Brenninkmeijer**

Zoom/Mic Operator: **Traci Jovanovic**

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

**Amy Kendall**, reporter