

## Roundabout for May 14, 2024

### NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM



Our next meeting will be on May 21 in the Frangipani Room. Our speaker will be Stephanie Shelton, speaking on Free Cancer Support and Resources in Bloomington/Monroe County.

### THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Link to meeting: <https://youtu.be/cXFNdN0YX18>

### Rotary Foundation Annual Meeting



Bloomington Rotary Foundation President **Trent Deckard** chaired the annual meeting. Among the highlights:

- Each year the club provides scholarships of \$1,500 each to four Monroe County high school seniors, and \$500 scholarships to three deserving Ivy Tech students.
- The club has a strategic plan to raise \$200,000 to support our scholarships. So far, \$128,000 has been raised toward that goal.
- Trent noted next week will include a “Hyper Happy Dollars” effort to raise more toward the goal and pledged the first \$50.

- He particularly thanked incoming president **Sally Gaskill**, past president **Loren Snyder**, and **Sara Laughlin** for their work during his time as president of the Foundation board.

Club members ratified a slate of officers: **Sally Gaskill**, president; **Alain Barker**, president-elect; **Sara Laughlin**, secretary; and **T. Claire Kest**, treasurer. Other board members are **John Zody**, **Jim Capshew**, **John Whikehart**, **Liz Feitl**, **Amy Osajima**, **Jim Shea**, **Hank Walter**, **Jerono Rotich**, past president **Trent Deckard**, and **Natalie Blais** (ex officio).

### Youth Exchange hosts needed

**Joy Harter** said host families are needed for the Youth Exchange student who will be coming in late summer for the academic year. A handout of frequently asked questions was available at the meeting. To receive one of them or if you have any questions, contact Joy ([joytracy9@gmail.com](mailto:joytracy9@gmail.com)); **Peggy Frisbie** ([pmfrisbie@gmail.com](mailto:pmfrisbie@gmail.com)); or **Carolyn Frye** ([cafrey@relax2smile.com](mailto:cafrey@relax2smile.com)).

### Past presidents meeting set; Rotary orientation held

Past presidents will meet June 25 to welcome **Traci Jovanovich** as incoming president and **Steve Wickes** as president-elect. The dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. at **Sara Laughlin's** home.

**Steve Wickes** and his wife, Lisa, hosted a Rotary orientation at their home this past Wednesday.

### MAY 14 PROGRAM



**Glenda Murray** introduced our speaker, Tim Fort. He holds the Eveleigh Professorship in Business Ethics and is professor of business law and ethics at the Kelley School of

Business at Indiana University. Besides his current job titles, here are some other things that came out about him Tuesday:

- He has a PhD in philosophy and a law degree, and he worked as a professional singer.
- He's working on a book with Kristin Hahn, executive producer of Apple TV's "The Morning Show" and co-owner of Echo Films with actress Jennifer Aniston.
- And he was nominated for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize.

Fort talked to the club about the relationship between ethical business and peace. He said Rotary was one of the first organizations he studied when considering the topic. He has cited Rotary numerous times in his four books on business and peace.

When he got tenure, Fort decided to focus on a big question, something he would be willing to fail at and still feel good about trying: arguing that the reason to be ethical in business is that you might prevent a kid from dying. Other ways to say it are peace through commerce, or business and peace.

He began looking at various potential business concepts that he considers contributions to peace. Among them:

- Economic development (by providing good jobs that alleviate poverty);
- Following the rule of law (there's clear correlation between corruption, bribery, and violence); and
- A sense of community (being a good corporate citizen and building community within your corporation by treating people well).

He came to IU in 2014, drawn to the possibilities at the Jacobs School of Music. "Music has a psychophysiological impact" that can change how people think, Fort said. He noted that things such as music, dogs, films, sports, or sharing food can help people find common ground. That translates to "nudges for individual decision making and moral psychology." Nudges can become bridges when songs, stories, sports, and suppers bring people together.

Too often, he said, we think of ourselves with only one identity. Human beings have a lot of identities, a lot of parts. "If we can uncover other identities," he said, "even if we disagree with each other, we have something to hold on to, even in the midst of our disagreements."

"Our argument is we can find common ground ... with each other if we stop and think about it," Fort said. It's a baby step, but we need baby steps in this current climate.

He stressed that political affiliation is just one identity. Finding other identities in music, dogs, or food can help set the stage for finding common ground on larger issues.

In answer to a question, he noted he's a business ethicist, a profession that is needed because businesses do some pretty lousy things. But, he said, there are many types of businesses. He believes that "businesses are the best option we have to help people get beyond our social divides." People who work together share the commonality that they need to make money, and that's a start to understanding.

## MAY 14 CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

Club President **Ron Barnes** offered this thought for the day: "Optimism is a huge asset. We can always use more of it. But optimism isn't a belief that things will automatically get better; it's a conviction that we can make things better." — Melinda French Gates

**Traci Jovanovic** reflected on the pleasure of seeing people walking and talking in Chicago on Mother's Day. She challenged Rotarians to talk as well as walk, to build community by talking and breaking down barriers.

**Dave Meyer** introduced our guests: Lisa Wickes, wife of **Steve Wickes**; Alice Koeninger, granddaughter of **Charlotte Zietlow**.

Member birthdays: **T. Claire Kest**, May 15; **Elizabeth Thompson**, May 15; **Marcus Whitted**, May 17.

Member anniversaries: **Alain Barker** and **Dave Meyer**, 10 years on May 13.

Greeter: **Art Oehmich**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Reflection: **Traci Jovanovic**

Camera/Mic Operator: **Traci Jovanovic**

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

Roundabout reporter: **Bob Zaltsberg**