

Roundabout for May 23, 2023

Next week's program



We will welcome our very own **Michelle Cohen**, executive director of the Lake Monroe Water Fund. Her talk is titled “Investing in Upstream Solutions to Secure Clean Water.” It’s a timely topic, given our District Grant project with this group next year! We will meet in the Georgian Room and on Zoom at noon.

News of the week

Welcome, Jerono!



Our newest member is Jerono Rotich (picture above with **Membership Chair Traci Jovanovi**). Dr. Rotich is a professor of kinesiology and associate dean for organizational climate, inclusion, and belonging at IU’s School of Public Health. She moved to Bloomington in September 2022 after working at North Carolina A&T and North Carolina Central University for more than 20 years. She is a member of the Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms in Kenya, president of the Kenya Scholars and Studies Association, and CEO and founder of the Kenya Students in Diaspora Foundation and Women & Youth Global Diversity Consulting. **Theresa Claire** and **Earon Davis** presided over the induction.

New Paul Harris fellows



Jeff Baldwin from the Boys and Girls Club of Monroe County and **Sandy Keller** from My Sister's Closet were celebrated as Paul Harris Fellows. Jeff has been a teacher, small business owner, and non-profit director. He has overseen tremendous growth of the Boys and Girls Club, which had 400 members when he started and more than 2,000 members now. Sandy started My Sister's Closet in 1998 to provide free work attire and success training to low-income and at-risk women. As of this week, the organization has served more than 2,800 women. In presenting the fellows, **Mike Baker** noted that the two have led organizations that have similar missions: empowering, caring, helping individuals grow into more productive members of society. He said they both "represent the best in our community and exemplify Rotary's Service Above Self motto."

Celebrate spring at WonderLab!



Instead of a lunch meeting on June 13, we will have a Spring Celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. at WonderLab, 308 W. Fourth St. The cost is \$20. Families are welcome, and kids under 18 are free.

Laura's House dedication

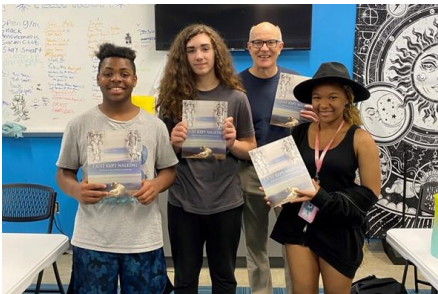


Thanks to **Jim Bright**, who provided the following report: Rotarians **Charlotte Zietlow** and **Sara Laughlin** were among the dozens of well-wishers who gathered Saturday, May 20, for the dedication of the latest Habitat for Humanity home in Bloomington. The new home, funded in part by \$20,470 raised from the Rotary Toast honoring Charlotte, will be occupied by Laura, a single mother; daughter Zoe, 12; son Erick 6; and Laura's mother, Juana. Half the money raised from each Rotary Toast goes to a charity chosen by the honoree; the other half is split among the clubs to be used for their service projects. Charlotte chose Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County to receive half of the 2021 Toast proceeds. In its first eight years, the Toast has raised more than \$300,000 for charities while it honors local citizens and raises awareness of Rotary.

Speaking in her native Spanish, Laura said, "I want to thank everyone for giving me and my family an opportunity to own a home of my own. The kids are really excited to have their own rooms and to enjoy RCA Park next door."

In addition to congratulating Laura and her family, Charlotte and Sara thanked Habitat Executive Director Wendi Goodlett and her "ReStore" team for providing furniture for the Rotary-sponsored Afghan refugee family.

Barker shares book



Club president **Alain Barker** shared copies of Elsa Marston's book *I Just Kept Walking* with members of the Boys and Girls Clubs of at the West 12th Street branch. The event was coordinated by past president **Ashley Wesley**, donor relations director for the Boys and Girls Club.

Alain also reiterated the move to Box for the club's online platform. He said plenty of members are available to help others make the transition. He noted the club is active on Facebook, LinkedIN, and Instagram.

He announced that the club will undertake a new initiative called "Living Room Conversations." This is a national program to encourage interpersonal communication to help humanize others who might have a different point of view or perspective. He showed a short video with the theme, "We all want to be seen and heard." Our club will use this program to communicate with the Bloomington Sibling City's Palo Alto Club.

Our May 23 Celebration of Service

President **Alain Barker** opened the meeting by thanking club members for their generous support of the scholarship program.

Our reflection came from **Kyla Cox Deckard, Lynn Schwartzberg, Steve Moberly, Judy Witt, Ashley Wesley, Joy Harter, and Alain Barker**. They shared reasons why they joined Rotary.

Ron Barnes introduced our in-person guests: Forrest Gilmore, guest of **Traci Jovanovich**; Susan Dabkowski, Michael Deykes, Ben Keller, George Keller, and Donna Lobdell, guests of **Mike Baker**; Leslie Abshier, guest of **Ashley Wesley**; Cory Grass, guest of **Jeff Baldwin**; and Lucy Deckard, guest of **Trent and Kyla Cox Deckard**.

Birthdays this week: **Christina Swanson** on May 24; **Bill Brown** on May 25.

Anniversaries this week: **Marcus Debro**, marking two years.



Rotarians **Connie Shakalis** and **Sally Gaskill** performed with Mary Carol Reardon at the Brown County PTO Concert May 18. The event honored teachers and staff for their work during the school year.

Earon Davis was congratulated for the publication of his book, *Exposing Systems of Anti-Jewishness*. The 583-page paperback attempts to reframe the problem of understanding the systems that produced and perpetuate antisemitism and its impact. It can be ordered at www.systemsofbias.com.

Mike Baker thanked volunteers who helped the Muhammadis move into a new home this week. He recognized the following volunteers for many ways of helping the Afghan family with the move: **Sally Gaskill, Steve Ingle, Jim and Anne Bright, Sara Laughlin, John Armstrong, Dave Meyer, Cindy Neidhart, and Traci Jovanovich.**

Ruth Boshkoff was our greeter, **Joy Harter** was our Zoom host, **Tylar Martin-Nichols** was our Zoom audio and producer, and **Traci Jovanovich** was camera/mic operator.

Roundabout reporter: **Bob Zaltsberg**