

## Roundabout for May 28

### NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM



Our next meeting will be June 4 in the Frangipani Room. Our speaker will be Ody Ekwonwa speaking on Health and Human Science. While she was born in Illinois, Ekwonwa takes great pride in her Nigerian heritage. She says her Catholic faith is also a crucial part of who she is. She graduated from the University of Illinois in Springfield in 2018 and received her master's in public health in community health education from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She says she is always looking forward to new opportunities to help residents of Monroe County.

### THIS WEEK'S NEWS

#### **Sister City event is Saturday; so is refugee picnic**

**Alain Barker** notes: The upcoming Second Anniversary Celebration for our club and Sister Cities USA partner clubs from Palo Alto, Calif., is this Saturday, June 1. In addition to the Bloomington Rotary Club's in-kind sponsorship of the event, the City of Bloomington, Visit Bloomington, Downtown Bloomington, and others have stepped up to make it possible to offer the event without charge. A cash bar will add to the fun. A reception and short town hall starts at 5:30 p.m. [If you plan to attend, please register ahead of time here.](#)

Also, the refugee picnic is from 4-7 p.m. in the Lion Den shelter at Upper Cascades Park.

### MAY 28 PROGRAM

<https://youtu.be/LWAminN2Sf8>



Scholarship chair Amy Osajima, at left, congratulates the 2024 winners: Shawn Wong, Dylan Stringer, Kate Seidenfaden, and Deep Patel.

**Amy Osajima** introduced our Rotary Scholarship recipients for 2024. She recognized committee members **Byron Bangert, Geoff Bradley, Claire Kest, Charlotte Zeitlow, Hank Walter, Jeff Richardson, and Leslie Kutsenkow**. Here's more about the scholarship winners, from Amy's introduction and their presentations.

**Kate Seidenfaden** graduated last weekend from Bloomington High School South. She was a competitive swimmer and a swim instructor for the South High School Learn to Swim program for elementary students. Amy said, "Her teachers recognize her character and commitment, leading by example and supporting her teammates in that arduous and competitive environment. In her essay, she wrote that her 'application for the Rotary Club scholarship was not just about furthering my education in Industrial Engineering at Purdue University, but about leveraging this opportunity to address real-world challenges in transportation or energy.'" Kate thanked the club and the people who supported her. She moved to Bloomington at the start of her junior year. She said service has been a very large part of her life and taught her a lot about empathy and community. She said her Christian faith has guided her to live a life of service and passion. She said her service work has been empowering as she watched younger people dream big. Her dream is to contribute to technological advances that will help improve many people's lives. "I'm committed to using my skills to give back," she said.

**Shawn Wong** was involved in Model United Nations, Biology Olympiad, Environmental Club, Chess Club, Science Olympiad, Business Professionals of America, Community Kitchen, and more at Bloomington High School North. Shawn is passionate about food justice. He says great leaders focus not only on what they can achieve but also on how they can lift others. One of his teachers said that his leadership skills are "put to great use by advocating for other high-performing students who are less known, making efforts to ensure everyone feels welcome." When he expressed his thanks, he said that in December he was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease and was unsure he could finish his high school work on time. His counselor, Julie Speer, helped him arrange his

schedule to do so. He will be attending the IU Kelley School of Business as a member of the Kelley Scholars program. He believes business can be used as a powerful tool for positive change. He said he dreams of democratizing access to nutritious food, empowering people to make nutritious choices, and igniting a movement to improve community health. At BHS North he was a founding member of Cougar Care Meals, a club in which students cook meals for homeless shelters. The mission of the club is to give nutritious food to homeless families while providing them encouragement. He believes leadership is about fostering relationships and serving others rather than having power.

**Dylan Stringer** graduated from Bloomington High School South and will be attending Swarthmore College in the fall. He has served as National Honor Society president, Kiwanis Key Club resident, and Academic Super Bowl president. His teachers describe him as "a dynamic leader who is passionate about creating solutions for the limited energy resources available in this world. He embodies character and service. He truly is a wonderful young person who is going to make the world a better place." Dylan said two things are significant to him: service and pursuit of chemistry. His work in service started when he joined the middle school Kiwanis Club. He also is active with Habitat for Humanity. He said the connections you make in service stick with you for the rest of your life. As for his pursuit of chemistry, that came when he worked as the first high school intern in a chemistry lab at IU. Just a couple of years ago, the lab created the brightest fluorescent materials in the world. He said the work the lab does has great potential for real world applications. He's excited to see where his work in chemistry takes him at Swarthmore.

**Deep Patel** graduated as valedictorian of her class at Edgewood High School. In her essay she wrote shared that even as a child, she knew she wanted to study medicine. One of her recommenders wrote, "What you don't see on paper and from watching her receive her many academic awards are all of the other qualities that aren't necessarily guaranteed from top academic students. Deep is one of the most unassuming and humble students of her caliber that I have had the pleasure of working with. She never takes for granted that she understands something, never assumes that something new will come easily to her, and never misses any opportunity to push herself, no matter how small." Deep was president of National Honor Society, president of Key Club, and vice president of student council. But she said those titles don't mean anything unless you learn something or take away something from those communities. She said she learned about helping others and leaving an impact on those around her. She talked about how much she learned helping other people during a summer trip to St. Louis to work in an underserved neighborhood. "We left the trip knowing we left an impact on every individual we crossed paths with. ... This act of service taught me about gratitude and appreciation for those who have helped me in my life." She thanked her family for sacrificing so much for her, preparing her to go IU to study biology with the goal of going into the medical field.

## **MAY 28 CELEBRATION OF SERVICE**

**President Ron Barnes** offered his thought for the day: “If you want happiness for an hour — take a nap. If you want happiness for a day — go fishing. If you want happiness for a year — inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime — help someone else.” — Chinese proverb

**Judy Schroeder** offered our reflection. She talked about the memorial service she attended in April at the IU Auditorium. It was the Medical and Allied Health Students of Indiana presenting a service of gratitude for those who bequeathed their bodies for medical education. She said the four student speakers had one common theme: “My donor was the best teacher I ever had.” She noted the donors were overrepresented by the helping professions. She said, “The whole experience was a fitting tribute to lives well lived, and a service of gratitude for those who, even in death, were givers.”

**Steve Ingle** introduced our guests: scholarship recipient Deep Patel and her guests Halee Patel, Kalpesh Patel, and Katie Bookman; scholarship recipient Shawn Wong and his guests Julie Speer, Joel Wong, Angie Wong, and Wendy Tong; scholarship recipient Kate Seidenfaden and her guests Susan DeVries, Kristi Seidenfaden, and Brian Seidenfaden; scholarship recipient Dylan Stringer and his guests Kara Parker, Anne-Sophie Stringer, and David Stringer.

Member birthdays: **Marcus Debro**, May 30; **Evan Nix**, May 28.

Member anniversaries: **Fred Dunn**, 51 years on June 1; **Marshall Goss**, 37 years on June 1; **Joy Harter**, 18 years on May 30; **Michael Hoff**, 31 years on June 1; **Arty Levy**, two years on June 1; **Rosann Levy**, two years on June 1; **Judy Lucas**, 27 years on May 29; **Judy Schroeder**, 36 years on June 1; **Wilson Shitandi**, one year on May 30; **Tim Thrasher**, 43 years on June 1; and **Bob Zaltsberg**, 36 years on June 1.

Greeter: **Elizabeth Thompson**

Introduction of guests: **Steve Ingle**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Camera/Mic Operator: **Tracy Jovanovic**

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

Photographer: **Charles Pearce**

Roundabout reporter: **Bob Zaltsberg**