

Roundabout June 25, 2024

NEXT WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

July 2 marks the end of **Ron Barnes'** tenure as president of the Bloomington Rotary Club and the beginning of **Traci Shindell Jovanovic's** term. We will gather in the Frangipani Room and on Zoom at noon for what Ron promises will be a fun meeting.

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT: Volunteers for the Teachers Warehouse supply drive have filled all the slots at Kroger College Mall on Saturday, July 13. Thanks! Volunteers are still needed for two-hour shifts at Kroger South and West. Please sign up at [2024TWSupplyDrive](#). Questions? Contact Anne Bright, annebrightmi@yahoo.com

HELPING HOOSIER HILLS FOOD BANK: Our club will be joining Duke Energy volunteers at Hoosier Hills Food Bank on Friday, July 26. Summer is a time when volunteers are really needed. Please review the available slots at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094BA9AE2BA75-50186227-hoosier> and sign up where needed. Thank you!

JUNE 25 PROGRAM

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/AleQzTcMKOA>



Michael Shermis introduced the program and this week's speaker, **John Zody**, executive director of CDFI Friendly Bloomington.

John spoke at length about just what constitutes a CDFI, Community Development Finance Institution, and discussed its role in bringing greater equity and opportunity to community development projects both locally and across the country. Lenders support such projects as affordable housing, childcare facilities, first-time home ownership, auto loans, nonprofits, and agriculture.

John said CDFI Friendly Bloomington is a facilitator and matchmaker between local institutions, growing businesses, nonprofits, and individuals and community development lending institutions. Many members of the community aren't aware these institutions exist, let alone the extent of the opportunities they provide. Bloomington, Monroe County, and the broader surrounding region haven't seen a historically significant commitment from CDFIs. CDFIFB seeks to correct that condition and bring significant new investment to the sectors in the area that are most in need.

In the six years since its founding in 2018, CDFIFB has contributed \$26 million toward the more than \$58 million in investments to community projects in the 13-county region it serves. Initiatives have included affordable housing co-ops, small business expansion, clean energy investment, and public art installations.

CDFI Friendly Bloomington hopes to continue to expand as a resource that attracts new investment to the area. At the same time it hopes to stabilize and grow wealth in traditionally underserved communities and help local industries adapt to a more sustainable future.

UPDATES: June 25 Celebration of Service

President **Ron Barnes** offered his thought for the day, quoting Teddy Roosevelt: "In a moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing."

Dave Meyer offered this week's reflection, discussing the state of trans rights and acceptance in our country and culture. Dave cited estimates that transgender individuals make up about 1.6% of the population. That makes them one of the smallest marginalized groups while simultaneously being one of the most visible, leading to a high degree of vulnerability.

In a little more than a year, the United States has seen a massive surge, 33 percent, in hate crimes against trans people, a particularly alarming statistic given the poll Dave cited that found only 6 in 10 people think trans individuals should be protected by hate crimes laws.

While a common social perception is that the concept of transgender identities is relatively new historically, it has been identified and scientifically considered much further back than most realize. The Institute for Sexual Research in Berlin probably still would be the foremost library of materials and case studies had not the new Nazi government raided the institute and burned its materials in 1933.

Dave left us to reflect on two questions: In the long arc of American history, how will our treatment of trans people be remembered? How will we remember our own behavior, what we did and did not do?

Lori Garraghty introduced guests: Jonas Chang (guest of **Michael Shermis**) and Robert Woolford (guest of **Wendell St. John**). Catherine Swanson, guest and sister of **Tina Swanson**, joined us online.

We have three Rotary birthdays this week. Best wishes to **John Hobson** (June 24), **Allen Boyd** (June 25), and **Aaron Brewington** (June 29).

We celebrate two Rotary anniversaries: **Hannah Hirsch**, one year, and **Ashley Wesley**, nine years.

Acknowledgments

Greeter – Charles Pearce
Introductions – Lori Garraghty
Reflection – Dave Meyer
Reporter - Sam Ujdak
Camera/Mic Operator - Traci Jovanovic
Zoom and Audio Producer - Tylar Martin Nichols

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