

Bloomington Rotary

Roundabout

August 1, 2023

Next week

We'll meet in the Frangipani Room and on Zoom. Our speaker will be District Gov. Shanon O'Toole. The Bloomington Rotary Club board will meet with her from 11 to 11:30 a.m. in the Distinguished Alumni Room. Members are also invited.



This week's news



Rotarians and Duke Energy employees spent July 28 organizing about 12,000 pounds of donated food at the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Thanks to Liz Irwin for coordinating the project. Thanks to our club participants: **Ron Barnes**, Anne and **Jim Bright**, **Steve Ingle**, **Liz**, **Rosie Levy**, Mark Peterson, **Lynn Schwartzberg**, **Wilson Shitandi**, **Mike Wade**, **Steve Wickes**, and Amy and **James Wolf**.

Thanks again to all the Bloomington Rotarians who volunteered for the Teachers Warehouse Supply Drive.

They included **Dhakhir Abdullah, Mike Baker, Ron Barnes, Vivien Bridges, Anne and Jim Bright, Liz Feitl, Peggy Frisbie, Sally Gaskill, Kim Gray, Rex Hillery, Steve Ingle, Sara Laughlin, Tylar Martin-Nichols, Dave Meyer, Steve Moberly, Bill Murphy, Cindy Neidhart, Caleb Poer, Judy Schroeder, Michael Shermis, Winston Shindell, Wilson Shitandi, Mike Wade, Hank Walter, Lexi Walters, Lisa and Steve Wickes, Judy Witt, James Wolf, and Marilyn Wood.**

August 1 Program: Labor and Race

Today's celebration of service is available at <https://youtu.be/PqybdMPxE8M>



Judy Schroeder introduced our speaker, Alex Lichtenstein. An IU history professor and chair of the American Studies department, Alex spoke on the topic “Labor and Racial Justice: Friend or Foe?” He began by acknowledging that President Biden recently recognized sites related to the death of Emmett Till in 1955. Alex then led us through a brief history of organized labor, beginning with the founding of the American Federation of Labor in 1886. Early leaders were white, male, and American-born. There were areas where white unions worked with Blacks, either in integrated unions or in separate unions. Probably the most famous Black union was the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, led by A. Philip Randolph. During World War I and the Great Migration of Black families to the north, some progress was made, but some businesses used Blacks as strikebreakers, and there were race riots in many cities.

The Depression in the 1930s brought new possibilities with the creation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). The new groups were industrial unions, such as steel, auto, and packinghouse workers. Rather than focusing on the task performed, as the craft unions had done, they tried to integrate all workers in one industry together. During World War II, A. Philip Randolph worked toward a March on Washington, but President Franklin Roosevelt used an executive order to lessen labor tensions. It wasn't until 1963 that a large March on Washington focused on economic and racial justice and rights. After President Kennedy was assassinated in

1963, President Lyndon Johnson pushed the Civil Rights Act through Congress in 1964, finally outlawing racial segregation and promising improved employment conditions. As sanitation workers in Memphis went on strike in 1968 to fight for better economic and working conditions, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Slow progress has been made since.

Alex invited people to visit Crispus Attucks Museum, at 1140 Dr. MLK Jr. St. in Indianapolis, to see the exhibit “Unmasked: The 1935 Anti-Lynching Exhibitions and Community Remembrance in Indiana.” The opening, on Aug. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m., will feature music by Billie Holiday. The exhibit will last through March 1, 2024.

Alex also recommended the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis and the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, a part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Our August 1 Celebration of Service

Steve Moberly greeted us. President **Ron Barnes** opened with a quote from an unknown author: “Staying positive doesn’t mean you have to be happy all the time. It means that, even on the hard days, you know better ones are coming.”

Jon Dilts, who chairs our Peacebuilding Committee this year, gave the reflection. He noted that peace is a cornerstone of Rotary. Rotarians confront the causes of conflict and try to improve situations. Jon concluded by reminding us that peace is what you get when you build goodwill and better friendships.

Dhakhir Abdullah introduced our guests:

- Annie Hawk, Brown County Rotary Club
- Dr. Bev Murphy, Brown County Chamber of Commerce Board Member, guest of **Jim Bright**
- Clara Stanley, Southport International Rotary Club
- Elizabeth Mitchell, guest of **Jim Bright**
- Scott Stamper, guest of **Gene Hurley**
- Justin Malley, guest of **Tim Jessen**
- Rita Oates, guest of her husband, **Bill Oates**
- Eldon McCabe, guest of **Theresa Claire**

Zoom host **Joy Harter** welcomed two members who have moved away:

- **Kate Cruikshank**, from Terre Haute
- **Henk Haitjema**, from the Netherlands

Birthdays this week:

- **Tylar Martin-Nichols**, July 26
- **Amy Kendall**, July 31
- **Traci Jovanovic**, Aug. 1
- **Bill Perkins**, Aug. 2

Member Anniversaries this week:

- **Patrick Smith**, 4 years
- **Lee Witt**, 20 years
- **Mike Baker**, 31 years
- **Bill Oates**, 35 years

Tylar Martin-Nichols was audio producer, and **Traci Jovanovic** was camera/mic operator.

Happy Dollars:

- Annie Hawk, from the Brown County Rotary Club, announced the Brown County ChamberFest, seven days of classical music, from Aug. 13 to 19. See ChamberFestBrownCounty.com for details.
- Guest Elizabeth Mitchell told us about the debut of her 56-minute documentary, “Reviving the West Baden Colored Church: A Labor of Love,” which will be shown without charge in the Monroe County Public Library Auditorium on Sunday, Aug. 27, at 3 p.m.
- **Judy Schroeder** reminded people that the Monroe County History Center has an excellent exhibit on “Breaking the News: The Past and Uncertain Future of Local Print Journalism” until Dec. 30.
- **Glenda Murray** announced that today she and Patrick are celebrating their 31st wedding anniversary.

Roundabout Reporter: **Glenda Murray**