

**Bloomington Rotary Club
September 17, 2024 Meeting
Reporter: Grier Carson**

Next Luncheon



The September 24 Celebration of Service will feature Tina Peterson, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County Regional Opportunities Initiatives (ROI) Inc. She works collaboratively with organizations to advance economic and community prosperity across the Indiana Uplands, an 11-county region in southwest central Indiana. Among other roles, ROI serves as the regional intermediary for Indiana’s READI initiative. Tina’s presentation will be on the “Boundaries of Philanthropy.”

The meeting will be held in the Frangipani Room [or on Zoom](#).

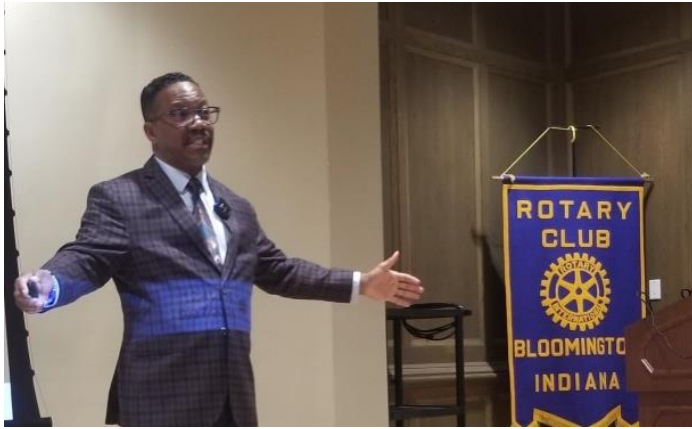
News of the Week

Reminder: Get your tickets for the big November 1 Rotary Toast honoring our friend Doug Bauder. With front-page coverage in the September 17 edition of the *Herald-Times*, the 10th Annual Bloomington Rotary Toast may well be our biggest ever. [Here’s the link!](#)

Please keep Joy Harter in your hearts. Her father passed away over the weekend. We’re looking forward to Joy’s return.

If you get a chance, read Noah Jager’s touching email direct from London. Noah spoke to us in early July, and he’s joining a host Rotary club of Golders Green in the U.K. You can access it and the rest of the meeting on this YouTube link: https://youtu.be/cAz01fS_aAU

Guest Speaker: Dr. Raymond Wise



Lori Garraghty introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Raymond Wise, who spoke to us about how the arts have made a profound impact on his life. Dr. Wise is a professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies and earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in Music Education from Ohio State University and a B.F.A in Music from Denison University. His research and teaching interests include the history and performance of African American Gospel and Sacred music, and he is an ordained minister and regularly serves as a singer, pianist, composer, conductor, and teacher for ensembles and opera companies as well as churches and choral festivals around the world.

Dr. Wise began by sharing that he would not be here today if it weren't for the arts and the role they have played in his life. He cited the numerous benefits of the arts including social and emotional skills building, mental focus, stress reduction, discipline and self-confidence, emotional expression, and the development of a positive self-image. He went into some detail regarding six distinct things the arts have done for him.

First, they've allowed him to maintain his family's musical tradition. He comes from a family of musicians going back four generations. His forebears include musicians who worked with composer and conductor John Philips Sousa as well as a pioneering gospel music radio promoter. His family had their own gospel-singing group, which he joined at the age of 3. Second, the arts have helped him develop his own gifts and achieve a degree of self-affirmation. Third, he's able to express and share his faith through the arts. Fourth, he's able to celebrate and share his own culture worldwide. From humble yet promising beginnings in Baltimore, he has had a career that has involved global travel, performance, teaching, and learning. Fifth, the arts have earned him a living, thanks to the pursuit of opportunities to serve in traditional academic settings, including being a college professor at numerous universities as well as a published composer. And sixth, the arts enable him to transform his community by bringing positive change and positive experiences to others.

Dr. Wise also spoke about how the arts are currently bringing diversity to Indiana University, using music to attract a wide array of students to join choirs and other ensembles. He said, "When I see my young students coming to this music, I see myself and am reminded of those

moments when I understood what the arts could do for me. I aspire to pass the baton to them and to help them be empowered by the arts just as I was.”

A donation will be made to New Leaf – New Life in honor of Dr. Wise’s presentation.

Meeting Updates ([see full meeting recording here](#))

President-Elect **Steve Wickes** chaired our meeting in the absence of President **Traci Jovanovic**. He welcomed everyone and shared the thought for the day: “You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world’s problems at once, but don’t ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.” - Michelle Obama

By citing a popular and instructive story, **Cindy Brumbarger** shared an inspiring reflection about encountering unexpected hardships. The author of this particular story grew up on a farm in West Virginia but later moved to Colorado. Noting that the West is very different from their native state, they observed that cattle and bison roam freely and in close proximity to one another due to the relative flatness of the topography. These two species are very similar to one notable exception. When storms come in from the west, cows sense the threat and head east out of fear and a desire to avoid threatening weather. Bison, on the other hand, head west directly into the storm. It may seem counterintuitive, but it actually reduces the length of time the bison have to endure the storm and also the ultimate impact of the storm itself.

The innate desire to avoid a looming storm causes many species to run in the opposite direction. For us humans, this isn’t a healthy coping strategy. Instead, we should reflect on the bison’s strategy and push through adversity. Each of us has that moment when we feel we just can’t go any further. That’s precisely when we should take a deep breath, face west, and push through it!

Elizabeth Thompson introduced our guests:

- Telmuun Batbold (Rotaract)
- Jun Wong (Rotaract)
- Ahnaf Rahi (Rotaract)
- Yehya Kader (Rotaract)
- Daniel Schlegel (guest of Rosie Levy)
- Don Hossler (guest of Martha Foster)
- Katie Cierniak (guest of Yolanda Treviño)
- Greg Moore (from Franklin Rotary)
- Nick Gomez (guest of Alain Barker)
- Vanessa Alvez (guest of Alain Barker)
- John Schilb (guest of Judy Schroeder)

And online:

- David Willett (visiting Rotarian)
- Cheryl Thompson
- Megan Gearhart (Global Scholar)

Past President **Tim Thrasher** celebrates a birthday September 19.

Celebrating member anniversaries are **Benjamin Pearson**, 3 years, and **C-M Morrison**, 5 years.

Executive secretary: **Natalie Blais**

Greeter: **Winston Shindell** and **Dakeer Abdullah**

Guest introductions: **Elizabeth Thompson**

Introduction of speaker: **Lori Garraghty**

Zoom host: **Sally Gaskill**

Reflection: **Cindy Brumbarger**

Reporter: **Grier Carson**

Camera/mic operator: **Michael Shermis**

Zoom and audio producer: **Tylar Martin-Nichols**

Reporter: **Grier Carson**