

**Bloomington Rotary Club**  
**Roundabout ~ March 25, 2025**



**Next week's program**, on April 1, will be held in State Room East (second floor of IMU) and on Zoom.

Our program features Tia Arthur, who has been the executive director for Monroe County CASA since November 2024. Tia began her career with a focus on connecting with children in this community as a resident coordinator at the Monroe County Youth Shelter-Binkley House and volunteered as an advocate for the CASA program in 2007. With an interest in child maltreatment law, Tia gained more experience when she worked for the Department of Child Services in the investigation's unit for more than three years.

In June 2012, Tia was drawn back to her true passion for serving children through fierce advocacy and joined the CASA program as a supervisor. Since becoming part of the CASA family, Tia has worn various hats, including managing the child visit monitor program and developing and managing the Courthouse Facility Dog Program of Monroe County CASA, the very first courthouse dog program housed by a CASA program in the state of Indiana. Tia also co-founded the Monroe County LINK Alliance. MCLA is a local chapter of the National Link Coalition, an organization that seeks to educate professionals in the community about the intersections of abuse in family systems, which include child abuse, animal abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse.

When Tia became CASA's executive director, there were 64 children on the waitlist without a voice. Tia has vowed to increase volunteer recruitment efforts to ensure that all of CASA's children have a voice through full advocacy.

## **This Week's News and Announcements**

### **Member Updates**

- There was a lovely service for **Lee Witt**, late husband of Judy **Witt**, last Saturday.
- It is with sadness that we share the news that **Mary Goetze** passed away on Monday.
- **Dick McKaig** has been experiencing health issues while in Arizona. He was just diagnosed with multiple myeloma and will be returning to Bloomington soon to continue treatment.

## Sign Up Sheets

Club members are needed to **sign up for service roles** for our meetings (greeting, reflection, introducing guests, etc.). Our club is dependent on members' willingness to sign up. She encouraged everyone to participate.

## March 25 program

View the [recording here](#)



**Traci Jovanovic** introduced our speaker, Carol M. Seaman, JD. Carol is a retired funeral consumer advocate from Fort Wayne who moved to Bloomington in 1976 for graduate school and law school. She became interested in consumer advocacy when she volunteered at the Indiana Public Interest Research Group and developed an interest in environmental law and policy. It was the untimely death of two friends within a year that turned her attention to supporting someone through the end-of-life process, including hospice and all the details of a funeral. She co-founded a local educational organization for consumers of funeral and cemetery products and services. Her recent interests include changes in the funeral/cemetery landscape and their impact on the environment and options and resources that have developed to help communities benefit from these changes. Natural burial is an option that takes us back to where we started, to a place of healing the environment.

Carol began her presentation by quoting Joy Harter: “The loving thing to do is to talk with your family about death.” Carol agrees very strongly with that message. She titled her presentation [Toward a Natural Way of Burial](#). She described the differences between natural and green burials and the benefits of each. She suggested the book *The Green Burial Guide*, by Elizabeth Fournier, as a resource in planning. She summarized green burial as a way of caring for our dead with the least possible environmental impact. She explained how natural burial allows individuals to be involved with their loved one through the entire process, which is a very personal experience. Families should have conversations with loved ones to understand their wishes as well as considerations for religion, traditions, and family needs.

Carol briefly described how funeral homes are involved in the process, as well as various FTC rules and Indiana laws that govern how funeral homes and funeral directors must be involved. Cemeteries also have rules regarding types of burial. She stressed that consumers should understand their rights regarding funerals and burial and communicate their wishes to family members. She recommended a number of books and websites for further study.

## Updates from our Meeting

Club President **Traci Jovanovic** welcomed Rotarians to Tuesday's meeting. She shared these two contrasting thoughts for the day:

“The fundamental weakness of Western civilization is empathy” - Elon Musk

“The death of human empathy is one of the earliest and most telling signs of a culture about to fall into barbarism.”- Hannah Arendt, German American philosopher, 1904-1975

**President Traci** announced the next organization to receive our quarterly contribution is the Bloomington Symphony.

## Feedback

Traci said she is receiving a great deal of feedback suggesting that we should be talking about what is happening in the world today. She acknowledged how the political situation is disconcerting, uncomfortable, and unfathomable on many levels. She shared a quote from Fareed Zarkaria on the Ezra Klein podcast, which sums up much of what is happening. He said that 30 years ago, if you had asked him who would destabilize liberal democracy, he would have stated “Iran, North Korea, or Russia most likely.” In fact, it's the United States.

Traci added that it is important to remember that Rotarians have diverging opinions. There are many Rotarians who are comfortable with the changes underway, including in our community. As members of a civic organization (not political), we are encouraged to attend one of the Living Room Conversations that **Alain Barker** is partnering with Braver Angels to facilitate. She also reminded us that there are elements in our thought for the day and programs that help remind us of actions we can take within our community and the world to provide positive impact and align with each of our individual points of view. We are all people of action. If we are waiting for someone to tell us what to do, then we might want to think more deeply. There are many ways to provide positive impact, physical support, financial support, and mental support to a friend. She concluded with this quote from Gandhi: “Be the change you want to see.”



**Jon Dilts** gave the reflection. He spoke about being our club president in 2011-12. Jon said that, prior to 2010 and Phil Meyers' presidency, the club was drifting predictably, comfortable, content. Phil, an expert planner, called for a novel idea at the time – the creation of a strategic plan. Without a plan to change course, our club was destined to become older and less active. The plan hoped for a bigger, better club,

one that was aspirational. Those plans set in motion a focus on leadership, with presidents recruited early and trained. These leadership skills ensure the ability to create a plan and to also adjust plans successfully when needed.

**Bill Brown** introduced our guests. They included Rebecca Patton, guest of **Marilyn Wood**; Melinda and Don Seader, guests of the club; Onno Reineos, guest of **Judy Witt**; Judy Klein, guest of our speaker; and Marci Hubbard, guest of **Sandy Keller**.

Traci shared/passed around a thank you letter from Martinsville Bell Academy to Teachers Warehouse.

**Michael Shermis**, chair of the Program Committee, asked all Rotarians to send suggestions for speakers. Personal connections and willingness to contact or introduce is very helpful in securing a speaker.

**Member Birthdays: Liz Irwin** on March 29

**Member Anniversaries: Jim Bright**, 18 years, and **Hank Walter**, 8 years

#### **Acknowledgments**

Executive Assistant: **Natalie Blais**

Meeting Greeter: **Steve Wickes**

Introductions: **Bill Brown**

Zoom Host: **Lori Garraghty**

Reflection: **Jon Dilts**

Photos: **Jim Bright**

Reporter: **Marilyn Wood**

Camera/Mic Operator: **Michael Shermis**

Zoom and Audio Producer: **Isaac Smith**