

NEWS OF THE NEXT GENERATION



Rotarian **Susie Basham**’s daughter-in-law, Renee, has been named as one of the Top 20 Inspiring Women to Look Out for in 2024 by Entrepreneurs Herald, an online magazine for global entrepreneurs. Renee is the Executive Director and Founder of Hope’s Embrace, a nonprofit community doula program. A doula is a trained professional who provides guidance and service to others during significant health-related experiences. Susie, we know you are proud and so are your fellow Rotarians. Looking ahead to the need for future Rotarians, your Wheel Horse Editor **John Wharton** has filed a membership application for his first **great** grandson (yes, you read that correctly), Lincoln Dale Earl Honan, born on John’s April 15 birthday. The kid cut it close, arriving on this mortal coil at 10:01pm on the 15th. Get that red badge ready.



DANCING WITH THE LEXINGTON STARS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

With our signature fundraiser right around the corner, your help is urgently needed. The following are five ways you can help make this event a success:

- 1. Attend the Event
- 2. Sponsorships
- 3. Auction Items
- 4. Bring Bourbon
- 5. Vote for Your Favorite Dancer

This week’s Rotary focus: bring a bottle of bourbon! Our goal this year is to raise \$3000 on the bourbon pull. We need sixty bottles valued at least \$50 or more to make that happen. Currently we have upwards of thirty bottles, so we really need your help.

The event is on May 11th at The Carrick House. Go to DanceLexStars.com for tickets and more information.

All your efforts are so appreciated!

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

May 2, 2024

— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Kim Johnson
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Lew Kelly
Introduction of Guests: John Darnell
Introduction of Speaker: Julie Kwasniewski

Speakers: Shannon Arvin, President and CEO, Keeneland Association with Tom Leach, CEO Tom Leach Productions and Voice of the Wildcats
Program: Keeneland Update and Derby Picks
Location: The Mane on Main

See Peggy’s weekly club email for meeting details: ordering lunch and how to view the meeting live online via Zoom or YouTube or view a recording of the meeting later.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



SHANNON BISHOP ARVIN

Last year at this time we noted that the week between the close of Keeneland’s spring meet and the rapidly approaching first Saturday in May is magical in Kentucky as thoughts turn to the Kentucky Derby, America’s greatest horse race, run continuously since 1875. This year might require a new adjective given that when the horses break from the starting gate on that first Saturday in May, it will be the 150th iteration of the Run for the Roses. That, my friends, is staying power!

This week Rotary Club of Lexington continues its own long-standing Derby tradition by welcoming to the podium Keeneland Association President and Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Bishop Arvin. She is joined today by Tom Leach, a two-time winner of the Eclipse Award for radio coverage of thoroughbred racing.



TOM LEACH

Arvin is the eighth president of Keeneland Association and the first woman named to the position. She began practicing law in 2002 at the Lexington firm Stoll Keenon Ogden (SKO), where she represented Thoroughbred owners and industry organizations in Kentucky and around the world. As an SKO partner, in 2008 she began serving as corporate counsel to Keeneland, and she has been secretary and advisory member of Keeneland’s board of directors since 2015.

Arvin serves on the board of directors of the University of Kentucky’s Gluck Equine Research Foundation and Stock Yards Bancorp, and is the Chairman of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. She is a trustee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association and The Lexington School. She became a

member of The Jockey Club in 2019 and a trustee of The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation in 2021.

Tom Leach is the voice of the Kentucky Wildcats for football and basketball and a contributor to Keeneland.com. During race meets, check out Keeneland’s YouTube channel for his trainer and jockey interviews ahead of major stakes races and listen for his weekly podcast “In the Money” with Jim Goodman at keenelandselect.com.

Keeneland is unique in the racing industry. It began operations in 1936 and somehow manages to remain true to its motto of “racing as it was meant to be” while at the same time relentlessly pursuing change and improvement for the betterment of the industry, the horses, and the fans. Only at Keeneland are world-class racing and industry-leading sales united under one mission-driven entity. Profits from those endeavors are returned to the industry and the community through initiatives in the areas of racing purses, global market development, safety initiatives and thorough-bred aftercare, fan development and the local community. Keeneland has donated millions to local charities and to health and educational programs. Welcome, Shannon and Tom!

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THE FOUR-WAY TEST
Of the things we think, say or do...

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

UPCOMING PROGRAMS		UPCOMING EVENTS/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	
May 9	Benjamin F. Adams, III Brigadier General. US Army Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs: The Honor Flight Program	May 11	Dancing with the Lexington Stars, Carrick House, 6:00 pm
May 16	No Lunch Meeting, Doing Rotary Differently	May 14	West Sixth Run Walk Club, W. 6th St., 5:30pm
May 23	U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Craig Mattingly, A Kentuckian’s Update on What’s New in the Navy	May 18	District 6740 Conference, DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel, Richmond Rd, 3-9:00pm
Jun 6	Brent Harrison, PhD University of Kentucky Professor Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence		
Jun 13	Frank Minnifield and Kay Collier McLaughlin, Kentucky Pro Football Hall of Fame		
Jun 20	No Lunch Meeting, Doing Rotary Differently		

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPRING KEENELAND OUTING IS IN THE BOOKS

In what has become a Spring and Fall tradition, twenty-four Rotarians, spouses, and friends gathered at Keeneland on April 10. Social Committee Chair Susan Adams reports that all were winners in spite of a rainy day, noting that “we were inside enjoying a wonderful all you can eat buffet, excellent wait staff service, with betting just steps away and a great view of the track – not a single raindrop was felt! It is also a great relaxed atmosphere to get to know fellow Rotarians and friends better too! Several of us tried the new Wins-day virtual betting and many even cashed real tickets. President Kim’s husband Larry cashed a boxed trifecta! We are all looking forward to the Fall meet.” One question, Susan: did Larry buy everyone a drink to celebrate his big win?



ONGOING ROTARY INITIATIVES: ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AND NETWORKING

Your Rotary Club is active on so many fronts these days; it’s hard to keep up. Sometimes our “regularly scheduled” activities seem to fade into the woodwork as we address exciting new initiatives. This is a good time to remember the ongoing work of Susie Basham and her team of volunteers (shown in accompanying photo) who work with God’s Pantry to fill and deliver backpacks to needy Fayette County and other students. And our monthly networking sessions hosted at 46Solutions continue with great and increasing success, exposing Rotary to an entirely new potential membership pool and having fun while doing so. The Club is already reaping benefits from this program in the form of new members and expressions of interest in membership.



The Rotary Club of Lexington
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Winn Stephens - Past President
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Eric Brooks - Sergeant-at-Arms
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Peggy Trafton - Executive Director (Staff)
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Jenny Schnurr - Office Assistant (Staff)
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Editorial Standards: *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed.

Rotary in Review

MEGAN WEDEKING NAMED 37TH WINNER OF THE TOMMY BELL AWARD



The winner of the 37th Annual Tommy Bell Award for Lexington’s Outstanding Student-Athlete is Megan Wedeking from Lafayette High School. Megan is Lafayette’s seventh winner. She is the daughter of Justin and Michelle Wedeking. This award is presented by the Rotary Club of Lexington.

Megan is a senior and in the Pre-Engineering Program. She completed the EBCE program at Lafayette with 4 internships (Lives Being Strengthened, NexGen Aviation, Lexington Chamber of Commerce, and the UK Marketing Department). Megan is a member of Lafayette Mu Alpha Theta and a former member of the Lafayette Student Council.

She is also a member of the La-

fayette Swim and Dive team and has lettered all four years of high school. Megan is a ten-time Regional Event Champion, four-time All-Region Team Member, twelve-time State Finalist, 2022 State Champion in the Girls 200 Medley Relay, and 2023 Region 8 Girls Team Champion. In addition, she is the Region 8 record holder in the Girls 200 Free Relay and Girls 100 backstroke.

Next year Megan plans to attend Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She will major in Sociology and swim for Holland.

The Tommy Bell Award for Lexington’s Outstanding High School Student-Athlete was established in 1986 by the Lexington Rotary Club in memory of former member Tommy Bell. Tommy was a highly respected and well-liked member of Lexington for all of his life. While he may be best known for his 14-year career as an NFL referee, including two trips to the Super Bowl for Super Bowl III and Super Bowl VII he also officiated the 1956 and 1959 NCAA Basketball Championship games. He is the only person to have ever officiated a Super

Bowl and an NCAA Men’s Division I Basketball Championship game. He was also a highly-respected lawyer in Lexington and served the community in many civic roles including terms on the University of Kentucky Athletic Association and University of Kentucky Board of Trustees as well as many other civic organizations.

Any student at a public or private school in Fayette County who plays a Kentucky High School-sanctioned varsity sport is eligible to win The Tommy Bell Award. Ballots are sent to all varsity coaches, Athletic Directors and principles, and to five members of the media. They are asked to vote for the best student-athletes. The ballots are compiled and using a point system, three finalists are determined by the most points received. The final determinant is the grade point average of the finalists, with the highest GPA determining the winner of The Tommy Bell Award.

For more information contact Bill Straus at 269-4787 or bill@billstrauss.com

– Bill Straus



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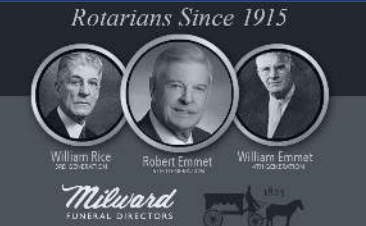
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NEW MEMBER DEEP DIVES DON THARPE



**DON & LINDA
THARPE**

Don't let Don Tharpe fool you! He will introduce himself as "just an old country boy from Mayfield", but that truly downplays his many accomplishments to date. The son of a minister and one of seven siblings, Dr. Tharpe was only the second member of his family to attend college. And you notice I said "Dr." rather than just "Don" as he obtained his undergraduate and master's degrees from Murray State and then earned a doctorate from

Virginia Tech. He continued to serve his alma mater, Murray State, as he became the first African American Chair of the Board of Regents during the University's centennial year. In 2005, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award and in 2018 the African American Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award from Murray State.

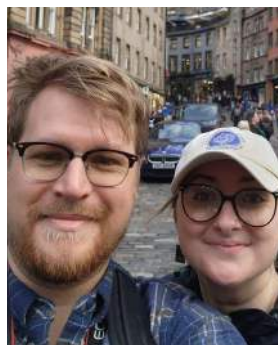
Don has spent a large portion of his career in Washington, D.C. in association management roles. He truly loves that type of work as he is definitely a "people person". During his 35-year stint in D.C. Don toyed with the idea of becoming a lobbyist. It didn't take long for him to learn that cash is king in Washington. He recounted the story of a well-known Senator (who will remain nameless) who was entertaining a large group of students from his home state in his offices. When he saw Don at the back of the room, knowing that he was there to deliver a check, the Senator basically walked over the school kids to get the money.

After a while, his wife Linda told Don that it was time that they sought out a slower pace of life. He challenged her to locate a place and shortly thereafter she came back with an answer – Lexington! He wisely listened to Linda and on July 27th they will celebrate 50 years of marriage.

Don has a wide variety of interests including woodworking, photography, and travel (any place that's not home). Don confesses that after many free Rotary lunches with Bill Wilson, it was time for him to join Rotary. Don looks forward to meeting many new friends through the Club and joining us in our projects.

– John Meyers

MICHAEL WALLACE



**MICHAEL WALLACE
& FIANCE ALEXIS**

New Rotarian Michael Wallace strongly believes in the correlation between a healthy environment and a healthy mind. He loves the outdoors and has already had the opportunity to work on several projects to advance that goal.

Michael came to Lexington in 2017 from Austin, Texas, where he had volunteered for the Texas Conservation Corps, helping to move cedar trees. He explained that cedars consume large

amounts of water and when present in large numbers can cause overdrafting of the aquifers. While this position was unpaid, he was able to "earn" a great deal of experience with poison ivy.

A residency program in Arts and Sciences gave Michael the opportunity to sail in the Arctic Sea with thirty other students. One of the stops in the journey was the remote Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, known as one of the world's northernmost inhabited areas. While there, Michael was amazed at the sight of wooden buildings from hundreds of years ago that showed almost no signs of aging as the wood is preserved by the extreme cold. Svalbard is also home to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, a repository for safely storing the seeds of many of the world's crop varieties.

Currently, Michael enjoys the outdoors in his new business venture, helping businesses develop marketing media using drone photography. He has also received some unusual requests for his services such as the time a farmer called to see if he could help locate a lost cow by using his drone. Michael has quickly become active in our Club as he provides his photography skills to many of our events. His work product is often seen in the *Wheel Horse* and *5th Page*.

Michael loves to travel and proposed to his fiancée, Alexis, on a cross-country trip in Scotland. High on his wish list is a trip to New Zealand.

He was attracted to Rotary when he became aware of its support for Kentucky Kids Belong and he was introduced to the Rotary Club of Lexington by Dylan Harper.

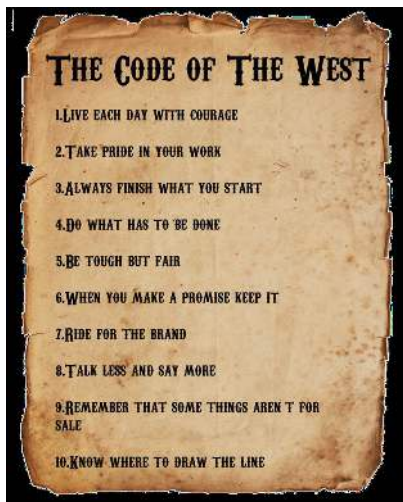
– John Meyers



Barry	Stumbo	7	Rod	Hartzler	20
Dan	Koett	8	Sam	Burchett	21
Rob	Kirkpatrick	9	Augusta	Julian	22
Mike	Delzotti	10	Gary	McCormick	27
Edwin	Gibson	14	Tony	Barrett	31
Sharon	Reed	17			

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA) 2024

On April 20, seventeen eighth graders from schools around the eastern half of Kentucky traveled to the Life Adventure Center in Versailles, formed into three teams, climbed a 60' rock wall, rappelled down the other side, practiced archery, rode horses, canoed, developed leadership skills, and competed in The Amazing Race. They participated in District



6740's 9th Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. RYLA is a Rotary program which provides any number of experiences for groups of youth all over the world.

The day's activities begin with the Wranglers (Judy Worth, Edwin Gibson, Chris Hickey) meeting with their teams for "ice breaking" exercises and to give out T-shirts and name tags. Phones and like devices are collected for the day. Director and

Past District Governor Dean Hammond and current District Governor, Jeanne Clark welcomed the participants, explained a little about Rotary and the youth programs we have, and left them with Kentucky Rotary pins. Chris Hickey, the Club and district RYLA chair, followed with

the vision and objectives of RYLA, as well as an overview of the day's activities. Dean continued with a discussion of a generic ethics structure (the "Code of the West") as a basis for discussions of ethics and leadership. Chris continued the discussion around types of leadership styles and the applicability of each in real-world scenarios. Lastly, we mentioned the "award" which is an exclusively minted RYLA challenge coin. This is something they can share with others, demonstrating that they completed something.

Everything at the Center is "Challenge by Choice." No one has to negotiate an event, such as climbing or rappelling, but

they do have to participate and encourage their team mates. All have to be part of the team. It is a great structure for self-development without fear or ridicule. Everything is about encouragement, and the students follow that precept well.

There is also a leadership challenge, where the team has to solve a puzzle or scenario where they have to move the entire team over pedestals using walk boards, where no member can touch the ground. This is a real exercise in communications, cooperation, and listening to one another.

As you can see, there is a lot to learn and experience at RYLA, but one of the most exciting events of the day, and the one we talk about all day, is the RYLA Amazing Race.

This is where each team has to work together to complete as many stations as they can in a set time, and you lose points if you are late returning. Some events can provide more points than others, but take more time to get to them. So, the teams have to use strategy, time management, and cooperation to be successful. At each station, the team has to canoe, climb, mount a horse, recite the Code of the West, shoot arrows, or solve a puzzle. They are assessed points for how they complete the tasks, and then had to be back at the dining facility by 5:00pm. All three teams were successful and returned on time. After the points were tallied, the Blue Team, led by Edwin Gibson, emerged as the winner. After a pizza dinner, we personally congratulated each participant and gave them a challenge coin and the Rotary pin and affirmation tag, provided by DG Jeanne Clark.

Many thanks to our Rotarians Chris Hickey, Judy Worth, Edwin Gibson, and our photographer Michael Wallace, for their tireless efforts in making this a great RYLA.

– Dean Hammond



THE ECLIPSE THROUGH THE LENS OF AN ECLIPSE AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER

It seems like a lifetime ago, but the eclipse on April 8 grabbed the world's attention, including that of our own 1984 Eclipse Award Winner for Outstanding Photography of Thoroughbred Racing, Bill Straus. Bill shared the accompanying photo and his story of the day: "We left here Monday morning about 9:30 and drove to Palmyra, Indiana. With plenty of time and French Lick only being eleven miles further we went on there. We were on the front lawn of the French Lick Resort with about 300 other people. The quite chatty crowd grew silent as totality approached. It was quite real and amazing." Bill, thanks for sharing this special event and your art with us.



5TH PAGE CONTRIBUTORS

Joe Bark, Paul Chewning, John Meyers, Sharon Reed, John Wharton - Editor