

**ROTARIANS MIX MURDER WITH MERRIMENT**

The recent opening of the Studio Player's performance of Agathie Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*, featured Lexington Rotarians on both sides of the curtain. Directed by our own Gary McCormick, the event was also the venue for our March social outing, organized by the Social Committee.

Susan Adams reports that fifteen Rotarians gathered to navigate the twists and turns of *Witness for the Prosecution*, one of Ms. Christie's most famous works. She also notes "that Gary did a great job of directing the actors who presented a very entertaining production. At the end of each scene many of us discussed the facts to that point and who we thought was the murderer. Eileen O'Brien got it right! She did admit to being a big Agatha Christie fan, so she might have had an advantage. The reception following the performance, featuring champagne, shrimp and more was a fun way to end the evening."

Keep an eye out for upcoming social events. They are many and varied. We hope to see more of you in the future.



**WELCOME, NEW ROTARIANS**

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Look for their bios in an upcoming issue of *The 5th Page*.

# The ROTARY Club of Lexington

## WHEEL HORSE

March 13, 2025

— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Bret Anderson  
 Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Eric Brooks  
 Introduction of Guests: Jeff Morrett  
 Introduction of Speaker: Dana Stefaniak

Speaker: Maj-Linda B. Selenica, Ph.D., Associate Director of Outreach & Partnerships, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging  
 Program: Current and Future strategies in Dementia – How scientists at Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, UK Lead the Way in Combating Alzheimer's Disease  
**Location: The Mane on Main**

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**MEET OUR SPEAKER**



**MAJ-LINDA B. SELENICA, PH.D**

It is likely that every person in today's Rotary Club meeting has been impacted by Alzheimer's disease in one way or another. The disease, a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and ultimately the ability to carry out the simplest of tasks, is estimated to affect more than six million Americans, most of them age 65 or older. According to the National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer's is the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. and the most common cause of dementia among the elderly.

Given this sobering reality, we are fortunate to have in our community the University of Kentucky Sand-

ers-Brown Center on Aging (Sanders-Brown) and dedicated researchers such as today's speaker, Maj-Linda B. Selenica, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Outreach & Partnerships in the Dept. of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry.

At Sanders-Brown, Dr. Selenica and other basic and clinical scientists work together to improve the health of older adults in Kentucky and beyond through research dedicated to understanding the aging process and age-related brain diseases. It provides education, outreach, and clinical programs that promote healthy brain aging. Over the past three decades, Sanders-Brown has emerged as one of the nation's leading centers on aging. Currently, only thirty designated Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers exist in the U.S. In 1985, Sanders-Brown was among the first ten such centers funded by the NIH and has been continuously funded since the designation was launched. This year it celebrates its 40th Anniversary!

Dr. Selenica has been associated with Sanders-Brown since 2019. She was the recipient of a \$125,000 grant from #TheCARTFund in 2020 for her research. CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) is a grassroots effort created by Rotary Clubs to provide cutting edge research to help find a cure for Alzheimer's. Rotarians can learn more about this initiative at [www.cartfund.org](http://www.cartfund.org). Since its inception, CART has awarded more than \$9 million in research grants to some of the most respected institutions in the country.

Today's presentation is titled "Current and Future strategies in Dementia – How scientists at Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, UK Lead the Way in Combating Alzheimer's Disease". She will discuss the research going on in her laboratory and present the work that Sanders-Brown is doing right here in Lexington. She is certain it will spark many exciting conversations.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS	UPCOMING EVENTS/ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
<b>Mar 20</b> Doing Rotary Differently, No Lunch Meeting	<b>Mar 15</b> St. Patrick's Day Parade, Join us to walk as a group, Midland Ave. 12:45pm
<b>Mar 27</b> Dr. Rufus Friday, Executive Director, Center for Integrity in News Reporting	<b>Mar 20</b> Backpack Pack-Up, God's Pantry Food Bank, Winchester Road, 1:00pm
<b>Apr 3</b> TBA	<b>Mar 28</b> Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8-9:30am
<b>Apr 10</b> DeVone Holt, Muhammad Ali Center	<b>Mar 29</b> Toyota Bluegrass Miracle League, Opening Day! Shillito Park, 10:00am
<b>Apr 17</b> Doing Rotary Differently, No Lunch Meeting	<b>Apr 16</b> Membership Social/Recruitment, Miracle League Field, Shillito Park, 5:00pm
<b>Apr 24</b> Kip Cornett, Lexington's 250 <sup>th</sup> Celebration	<b>Apr 23</b> Keeneland, Spring Meet, Lexington Room, 11:00-6:00pm, \$125
	<b>Apr 25</b> Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8-9:30am
	<b>May 10</b> Dancing with the Lexington Stars, Carrick House, 6:00-11:00pm, \$225
	<b>May 29</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Thursday Social, Lexington Legends, Legends Ballpark 5:30pm

**ROTARY'S RITE OF SPRING - MIRACLE LEAGUE**

**OPENING DAY MARCH 29TH**



"Inspired by the nationwide success of Miracle League programs, the Toyota Bluegrass Miracle League was established in 2006 through collaboration with the Rotary Club of Lexington, alongside numerous community leaders, organizations, and volunteers. Our mission: To offer individuals, age 5 and up, facing any form of physical, developmental, or emotional disability, the chance to experience the joy of baseball. Nestled within Shillito Park in Lexington, KY, our facility boasts a one-of-a-kind rubberized playing surface, adorned with the traditional markings of a baseball field. Engineered for safety, this cushioned, flat playing area, coupled with covered dugouts, ensures accessibility for all, including those in wheelchairs, walkers, or with visual impairments. Adding to the inclusive environment is our barrier-free, covered picnic pavilion. Currently, our league proudly serves over 200 players from Central Kentucky and beyond each season."

This is the "official" description of the Bluegrass Miracle League posted on our website (<https://bgml.org/>). But to truly experience the Miracle League, you have to participate in providing these children and their families with a safe, secure, and supportive environment for a baseball-day-out with a great sponsored picnic. We have two seasons each year (six Saturdays) and Rotary has always provided the opening day picnic, feeding well over 200 players and their families and friends. It is heartwarming and worthwhile and this is the type of service work I knew I would find with Rotary.

We would welcome some new committee members – please get in touch with me or Tony Barrett and we will look forward to seeing everyone on March 29th!

– Eileen O'Brien, Committee Chair



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- Set up & printing by Lynn Imaging
- Editorial Standards: *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed.

*Rotary in Review*

**LAURA GREGORY, WATERSHED PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
KENTUCKY WATERWAYS ALLIANCE**

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you." Kentucky author Wendell Berry

This past week, our Club had the pleasure of welcoming Laura Gregory, Watershed Program Director for the Kentucky Waterways Alliance (KWA), for an important conversation about the health of Kentucky's waterways, the critical role of advocacy and policy, and how efforts like those of our Club are making a difference in Eastern Kentucky and beyond.

Kentucky Waterways Alliance has been working for over thirty years to protect, restore, and celebrate the waterways of Kentucky – from large rivers to small creeks that flow through rural communities. Laura's role is centered on building partnerships and programs that improve water quality and ensure access to clean, safe water for all Kentuckians, especially in areas where aging or non-existent infrastructure has left families vulnerable.

During her presentation, Laura outlined some of the biggest threats facing Kentucky's water systems today, including pollution from failing septic systems, inadequate wastewater infrastructure,

and legacy pollution from industries and mining. Many of these issues disproportionately affect rural areas, where residents lack the resources to address failing septic systems or access reliable public water systems.

Laura also highlighted that water quality is not just an environmental issue – it's a public health issue. Contaminated water can cause a wide range of health problems and reduce quality of life. Yet, the cost to fix failing septic systems is often out of reach for many families, and government programs designed to help can be limited in scope or difficult to navigate. That's where advocacy and assistance programs championed by KWA come into play.

One of the most powerful connections Laura made was directly to OUR Club's work. Our Club has been committed to supporting clean water initiatives in Eastern Kentucky, helping provide safe sanitation options and addressing septic issues that directly impact water quality and community health. Our efforts to raise funds and awareness align perfectly with KWA's mission, and Laura's presentation served as a reminder of why our work matters so much.

Laura described the critical need for partnership between organizations like KWA, community leaders, and civic organizations like Rotary. By pooling our resources and influence, we can help bring real solutions to communities that are often overlooked. Laura also emphasized the importance of advocating for better state and federal policies that prioritize water and sanitation infrastructure for rural areas.

In closing, Laura offered a call to action: Continue supporting local and regional water quality projects. Help raise awareness of the challenges facing Eastern Kentucky communities. Advocate for stronger state and federal programs that address failing septic systems and access to clean water.

To learn more about how you can get involved or support KWA's mission, go to [kwalliance.org](http://kwalliance.org).

The Rotary Club of Lexington thanks Laura Gregory for an informative and inspiring presentation and for reminding us that protecting Kentucky's waterways is a shared responsibility – and one that we are proud to be part of.

– Dan Koett

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