

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary:

Rick Walls

Classification: Assn & Orgs; United Way of the Bluegrass

Sponsor: Lyle Hanna

Objections should be made in writing within seven (7) days to The Board of Directors, Rotary Club of Lexington, 401 W. Main Street, Suite 305, Lexington, KY 40507. Objections are kept in strict confidence.

CONGRATULATIONS YEARLINGS!

The leaves in Lexington are not the only things changing colors! Congratulations to the Rotary Yearlings who exchanged their red badges for blue ones last week. They completed their Special Training for Action in Rotary (STAR) suggested requirements. These requirements help build meaningful relationships and build leadership skills. They finished STAR with their service project partnering with Revive Ministries, enhancing their landscape, in Nicholasville, Kentucky. This was a great class and one that is sure to make an impact in our community and club.

L to R: Susie Basham, Chair Yearling Committee, Jim Richardson, President, Cassi Kline, Cole Maier, Andie Bryan, Joe Evans, and Larry Spell. Not Pictured: Shawn Barkley, Jaron Johns, Sam Overbee, and Dana Stefaniak



WELCOME, NEW ROTARIANS

Ruth Ann Palumbo

Contact Information
Home Address: 10 Deepwood Drive, Lex., KY 40505
Email: ruthannpalumbo@qx.net
Ph: 859-537-1947
Sponsor: Gregory Turay

Monica Owens

Contact Information
Home Address: 102 The Masters, Georgetown, KY 40324
Email: mnmowe2@gmail.com

Ph: 502-735-2071
Sponsor: Kim Johnson and Jenny Schnurr

Bryan Dollins

Contact Information
Home Address: 3964 Kenesaw Dr., Lex., KY 40515
Email: bryan.dollins@stockton.com
Ph: 859-338-4776
Sponsor: Susie Basham
Look for their bios in an upcoming issue of *The 5th Page*.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Nov 20 Stockyard Lunch and Tour, See Upcoming Events
- Nov 27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- Dec 4 Donald Colliver, Ph.D, P.E., Professor Emeritus of Biosystems Engineering
- Dec 11 Holiday Party with Booker T. Washington Students
- Dec 25 Holiday Break
- Jan 1 Happy New Year
- Jan 8 Eli Capiluto, President, University of Kentucky

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 17 God's Pantry, Backpack Pack-Up, 817 Winchester Rd., 1:00- 2:30pm
- Nov 20 Field Trip, Blue Grass Stockyards, Lunch and Tour, Iron Works Pike, 11:30-1:00pm
- Dec 5 Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8:00-9:30am
- Dec 15 God's Pantry, Backpack Pack-Up, 817 Winchester Rd., 1:00- 2:30pm
- Dec 18 Annual Holiday Party, Campbell House, Harrodsburg Rd., 6pm
- Jan 29 Around the World Dinner Event, Mane on Main, 6:00-9:00pm

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

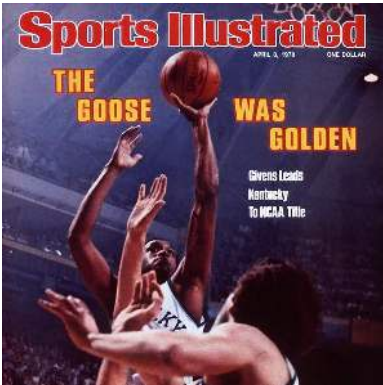
November 13, 2025
— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Jim Richardson
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Jenny Schnurr
Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie
Introduction of Speakers: Jim Richardson

Speakers: Jack Givens and Rob Bolton, 1978 Men's Basketball National Champions, University of Kentucky
Program: That Championship Season
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKERS



JACK "GOOSE" GIVENS

This week Rotarians are invited to climb into the "way-back machine" and revisit the glorious – for UK basketball fans – year of 1978. That was the year that the Wildcats defeated the Duke Blue Devils at the CheckerDome in St. Louis for their fifth NCAA national championship. And who better to travel with on that journey than two men who were there, front and center, Jack Givens and Rob Bolton.

Jack "Goose" Givens, was born September 21, 1956, in Lexington, Kentucky. Growing up in a housing project, he honed his skills at Lexington's Douglass Park in the Dirt Bowl league before earning Kentucky Mr. Basketball and Parade All-American honors at Bryan Station High School in 1974.



ROB BOLTON

At UK, the 6-foot-5 forward scored 2,038 points, ranking third on the school's all-time list, and earned three first-team All-SEC selections plus consensus second-team All-American honors in 1978. He led the Wildcats to the 1978 NCAA Championship, exploding for a then-record 41 points on 18-of-27 shooting in a 94-88 title win over Duke, earning Final Four Most Outstanding Player honors and a spot on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. His No. 21 jersey is retired at Rupp Arena.

Drafted 16th overall by the Atlanta Hawks in 1978, Givens played two NBA seasons, appearing in 156 games before ending his NBA career in 1980. He also played four years in the Japan Basketball Association, as well as in Italy and Bel-

gium. Following his playing career, he has worked as a broadcaster, including as a color analyst for NBA teams like the Orlando Magic and currently for UK men's basketball on the UK Sports Network alongside Tom Leach. He has ventured into real estate development, served as CEO of the Orlando Comets AAU program (which won a national title in 2006 and has placed over sixty players on NCAA scholarships), and holds a role as vice president of business development at Five Star Electric.

In 2024, he released his memoir *They Call Me Goose: My Life in Kentucky Basketball and Beyond*, detailing his rise from poverty, financial struggles, and reliance on faith and family. Jack is married to Linda; they have two children, Jeremy and Jaimie.

Rob Bolton is graduate of UK and was the Team Manager of the 1978 basketball team. He is a highly regarded realtor for Christie's International Real Estate, known for his deep market knowledge, work ethic, exceptional client service, and longstanding commitment to the community. He has developed neighborhoods

SPEAKERS, 2

The Rotary Club of Lexington
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Editorial Standards: *Chicago Manual of
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FROM PAGE 1

SPEAKERS

(Hartland and the Gardens of Hartland), and built homes (Heritage Place and Prestwick) in addition to selling new and existing residential real estate.

DOING ROTARY DIFFERENTLY- WHERE’S THE BEEF?

Rotary’s third Thursday field trip will answer that question: the beef is at the Blue Grass Stockyards and has been since 1946! This iconic business and symbol of our agricultural heritage is now in an ultra-modern facility located off Iron Works Pike. People in the cattle business know the name Blue Grass is synonymous with quality service, professionalism, and good cattle. There are various shops and a small museum which is a fun way to learn about the cattle industry. We’ll hear from Jim Ackers, COO, about this amazing facility and operation! Completing the field trip is a box lunch and tour! Guests Welcome! The excursion runs from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Tickets are \$19 each and may be purchased at <http://e.givesmart.com/events/JWR>.



HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS,
HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS . . . !

All of you “wanna be” Santas out there, mark your calendars for the Booker T. Washington Kids Christmas party to take place at our December 18th meeting. Help share the Rotary joy by sponsoring a gift of no more than \$30 for a child. See Carrie Patterson at the November 13th meeting to sign up. Carrie will provide all the details when to return the gifts etc. If you cannot make it to that meeting but still want to sign up, call her at 859-983-0611 or email Carrie@CarpetOneLex.com. Winn Stephens will reprise his role as the big man in red and Jim Richardson will get us in the musical mood. This is a special event. You won’t regret being there.



Rotary in Review

THE LEXINGTON THEATRE COMPANY: A DECADE OF DREAMS

“All the world’s a stage,” Shakespeare once wrote, and at last week’s Rotary meeting, that stage belonged to Lyndy Franklin Smith and Jeremy Smith, co-founders and producing directors of *The Lexington Theatre Company* (The Lex). The dynamic couple shared the inspiring story behind the company’s first ten years, highlighting how a dream that began in Jim Richardson’s living room has grown into one of Central Kentucky’s most celebrated cultural institutions.

Lyndy, a Lexington native and Sayre School graduate whose Broadway credits include *A Chorus Line*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *White Christmas*, said her passion for creating The Lex came from wanting to “pay it forward” to the next generation. “The experiences we had at professional regional theaters opened doors for us, created connections, and built our careers,” she explained. “I wanted Lexington to have that same opportunity, to make professional theater for Lexington, right here at home.”

Jeremy, who hails from Oklahoma and brings both performance and arts management experience, described The Lex as a place “where great work and great people come together, a space

where aspiring performers can learn by doing, working side-by-side with Broadway professionals.”

Their mission, represented by the three arches in The Lex logo, centers on creating professional theater, training the next generation of artists, and sharing masterful storytelling with the community. “There’s nothing like gathering together with your fellow humans to hear a story,” Lyndy said. “That’s what we love most, live, shared storytelling.”

Since its founding in 2014, The Lexington Theatre Company has produced dozens of professional musicals at the Lexington Opera House and has employed more than 600 artists, engaged over 1,000 students, and reached 45,000 audience members from 104 Kentucky counties and forty-eight states. Education and outreach remain core pillars, with tuition-free apprenticeships, paid internships, and arts education programs that now extend into Fayette, Boyle, and Franklin counties.

The company recently reached a milestone with the opening of its new home, the **Brown Creative Center** on Alexandria Drive. Thanks to a transformative \$2 million gift from the James A. and Martha R. Brown

Foundation, the new space includes rehearsal studios, classrooms, and the upcoming Alex Theatre, a black box performance space that will host new works and community programs.

Rotarians were treated to a special sneak peek from *A Christmas Carol*, the next mainstage production opening November 20 at the Lexington Opera House. Broadway veteran **Byron St. Cyr**, who stars as the Ghost of Christmas Present, performed a lively musical number that brought a touch of holiday magic to the room. “You get to see some of the best work happening anywhere,” he said of regional theater. “It’s where big ideas and new productions are developed, and where audiences can experience that Broadway magic close to home.”

As the company looks ahead to its next decade, Lyndy reflected on their “decade of dreams” with gratitude and hope. “Sometimes I can’t believe it’s all happened in these first ten years,” she shared. “But what excites us most are the next ten, and the ten after that. Our hope and prayer is that The Lexington Theatre Company outlives us and becomes an absolute staple in the fabric of this beautiful arts community.”

– Dan Koett

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