

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIANS

Gary Crisp

Contact Information
 Home Address: 3659 Bay Springs Park, Lexington, KY, 40509
 Email: gary.crisp@schooleymitchell.com
 Ph: 469-434-5470
 Financial, Cost Consulting
 Sponsor: Jenny Schnurr

Trent Mobley

Contact Information
 Home Address: 2249 Shaker Run Rd., Lexington, KY 40509
 Email: trent@bernerpest.com
 Ph: 859-880-1519
 Service Industry, Pest control
 Sponsor: Dylan Harper

JOIN THE AFTER HOURS CLUB TO LEARN ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN KENTUCKY

Sex trafficking in America is a serious problem, but surely not in Kentucky. Right? Well, wrong! The Rotary Club of Lexington After Hours Club has invited us to join them for a special program led by Refuge for Women that will examine the issue of human trafficking in the Commonwealth. Need convincing? Then note the following:

Did You Know?

Sex trafficking is a \$10 Billion+ industry in the US.
 12 states have only 1 house offering safety and recovery.
 16 states have NO recovery housing at all.

Kentucky ranks 9th in the nation for new trafficking cases.
The most common age of trafficking in Kentucky is 16.
Trafficking occurs in ALL 120 counties in Kentucky.
389 women are being advertised for sex within 10 miles of Lexington right now.

Alarming statistics for sure! To learn more about what is happening in and around Lexington, you are invited to hear an expert in the field. . .

Julian McPeak, Community Engagement Coordinator
Refuge for Women, Inc.

When: Feb. 26, 2026 | 5:30 Social Time | 6 pm Presentation
 Where: Bronte Café (Inside Joseph Beth Booksellers at Lexington Green)
Refuge for Women is one of the leading housing programs for victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

In order to accommodate seating for everyone, please RSVP by Feb. 24 to Jeanne Clark at jclarkrotary6740@gmail.com.

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

February 12, 2026
 — TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Bill Wilson
 Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Cheyenne McBride
 Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie
 Introduction of Speaker: Eric Brooks

Speaker: Brent Seals, Ph. D., Pigman College of Engineering, University of Kentucky
 Program: On Perseverance: Virtually Unwrapping the Herculaneum Scrolls
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



DR. BRENT SEALES

When we think of archaeology, we often conjure the image of Indiana Jones in a jungle temple or desert tomb. What if, instead, we see a man at a computer in a lab using high technology to recover the secrets of the past? That is exactly what Dr. Brent Seales does. He has recovered artifacts and information thought last forever. Imagine reading a 1700 year old bible or a 2000 year old scroll or seeing carvings on monoliths hundreds of years old. Brent has and is sharing these treasures with the world.

Dr. Seales has been teaching and mentoring students in computer science at the University of Kentucky since 1991. The focus of his research for the past twenty years has been on restoring

and redeeming cultural and historical artifacts from the ravages of time. The challenge of rescuing texts that may be central to Biblical scholarship and the formation of the ancient world is a primary passion.

As a result of his innovations, Dr. Seales has become renowned by collectors and curators across the globe, earning a reputation as “the guy who can read the unreadable.” His breakthrough work on the scroll from En-Gedi received international recognition and was featured in *Science Advances*, the *New York Times*, *Le Monde*, and the *Times of London*.

In his presentation today, he will tell the story of virtual unwrapping, conceived during the rise of digital libraries, computer vision, and large-scale computing, and now realized on some of the most difficult and iconic material in the world - the Herculaneum Scrolls - as a result of the recent phenomena of big data and machine learning. Virtual unwrapping is a non-invasive restoration pathway for damaged written material, allowing texts to be read from objects too damaged even to be opened.

Dr. Seales is the Stanley and Karen

Pigman Chair of Heritage Science and Professor of Computer Science at the University of Kentucky. He earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has held research positions at INRIA Sophia-Antipolis, UNC Chapel Hill, Google (Paris), and the Getty Conservation Institute. The Heritage Science research lab (Educelab) founded by Seales at the University of Kentucky applies techniques in machine learning and data science to the digital restoration of damaged materials.

He continues to work with challenging, damaged material (Herculaneum Scrolls, Dead Sea Scrolls), with notable successes in the scroll from En-Gedi (Leviticus), the Morgan MS M.910 (The Acts of the Apostles), and PHerc.Paris.3 and 4 (Philodemus / Epicureanism). The recovery of readable text from still-unopened material has been hailed worldwide as an astonishing achievement fueled by open scholarship, interdisciplinary collaboration, and extraordinary leadership generosity.

The Editor thanks Eric Brooks for his contributions to this Meet Our Speaker piece.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Feb 19** Doing Rotary Differently, See Upcoming Events
- Feb 26** Darlene Thomas, M.S.S.W., Executive Director, GreenHouse 17
- Mar 5** Tina Nance, Executive Director, Aviation Museum of Kentucky
- Mar 12** Robert Mucci, Author, Garvis Kincaid Life and Success
- Mar 19** Doing Rotary Differently
- Mar 26** Ed Holmes, AICE, Principal, EHI Consultants, Affordable Housing

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 19** Trivia Night, Columbia's Steakhouse, Richmond Rd., 5:30, \$5.00
- Feb 23** God's Pantry, Backpack Pack-Up, 817 Winchester Rd., 1:00- 2:30pm
- Feb 27** Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8:00-9:30am
- Mar 14** St. Patrick's Parade, Meet on Midland Ave., 12:30 pm
- Mar 23** God's Pantry, Backpack Pack-Up, 817 Winchester Rd., 1:00- 2:30pm
- Mar 27** Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8:00-9:30am

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE TRAINS TOMORROW'S LEADERS



The Rotary Leadership Institute is a critical service to our members as we seek to insure that we will have the leadership we need to ensure Rotary's future.

On Saturday, thirty-three Rotarians from fifteen Rotary clubs in District 6740 braved the low temperatures and uncertain road conditions to complete the first Rotary Leadership Institute for 2026. The Institute was held at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Newtown Campus, which joined District 6740 leadership as event co-sponsors.

Congratulations to the six Rotarians from our club who received graduation certificates at the end of the day in recognition of their completion of almost eighteen hours of training over three days. The grads include our own **John Kiebler, Chris Aldridge, Don Tharpe, Kim Hammond, Sarah Diener, and Lyle Hanna**. Thanks also to the thirteen faculty and Planning Committee members who facilitated courses and/or organized the event, ten of them from Rotary Club of Lexington: **Paul Chewning, Jack McAllister, Barry Stumbo, Jenny Schnurr, Augusta Julian, Bill Wilson, Dean Hammond, Martha Riddell, and Judy Worth**.

The next RLI will be held in late August or early September, depending, of course, on the UK home football schedule. Watch for a SAVE THE DATE e-card in early summer.

— Judy Worth

AND THE ANSWER IS: ROTARY TRIVIA NIGHT!

The question: What is the most fun you can have on a wintry February night? Join Rotary at Columbia's Steakhouse on Richmond Road for our 3rd annual Trivia Night! It will be Thursday evening, February 19 during Doing Rotary, Differently week. Dinner and social time will start at 5:30pm. Trivia begins at 6:30pm. Significant others, friends, and potential members are all welcome! Securing your spot is only \$5 and pays for the professional Trivia coordinator. You could be part of the new Rotary Trivia Championship team! Teams are usually three to five people. We can put you on a team if you don't form your own.

Only forty seats available, so purchase your spot soon at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/Jjp/> or use the adjacent QR code.



The Rotary Club of Lexington
401 W. Main, Ste. 305
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: 389-8100

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Rotary in Review

COUNTRY BOY BREWING: A HOME BREWED SUCCESS!

Who doesn't love a good beer? Kentuckians certainly do, and Daniel "DH" Harrison reminded Rotarians last week that while bourbon may get much of the spotlight, the Commonwealth's craft beer scene has quietly built something just as meaningful, community-driven, and impactful.

DH, a Scott County native and Georgetown College graduate, is one of four Kentucky-born founders of Country Boy Brewing, which opened its doors in Lexington in 2012. What began as a passion project rooted in friendship and a love for craft beer has grown into one of Kentucky's most recognizable brewing brands, with locations in Lexington, Georgetown, and Louisville, distribution across eight states, and a workforce of approximately 150 employees.

DH traced his love for craft beer back to an unexpected place: Japan. While teaching English abroad through a sister-city exchange program, he discovered not just beer, but the culture surrounding it, community, craftsmanship, and shared experience. "It was there that I developed a great affinity for craft beer, what it meant, the community around it, and the passion behind it,"

he shared. Returning home, DH and his partners launched what became Lexington's first taproom-model craft brewery since the closure of Lexington Brewing Company's original taproom. Their early business plan was humble. "Our goal was to sell thirty beers a day," but Lexington quickly proved hungry for something new. "We realized pretty quickly we had a tiger by the tail," DH said, crediting community support as the catalyst for growth.

One of DH's central themes was risk. From expanding into Georgetown, now home to the largest production brewery in Kentucky, to navigating the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Country Boy's story is defined by calculated leaps of faith. "We always said we'd rather look back in fifteen years and say we gave it a try than spend our lives asking 'what if,'" DH noted.

That mindset was tested during the pandemic, a period DH described as transformative. In a moment that went viral, he addressed employees using his great-grandmother's World War II ration book as a metaphor for resilience and care. "We're just simple beer makers," he told staff, "but we're going to

take care of each other." That moment reshaped his leadership philosophy. "I realized I wasn't a CEO, I was a morale officer," he said.

Since then, Country Boy has continued to innovate, including opening a taproom in Louisville's Omni Hotel and partnering in PKL Lex, a large-scale indoor pickleball and golf facility. These ventures, DH explained, are about meeting new audiences where they are, without losing the brand's soul.

At its core, DH emphasized that Country Boy is about people. "The most rewarding thing about this job is the people we get to work with every day," he said. But just as meaningful are the stories shared by customers, first legal beers with parents, wedding toasts with loved ones. "We just make beer," DH reflected, "but it's a liquid people build lifetime memories around. What an honor that is."

He closed with a quote from Daniel Burhham that defines Country Boy's future: "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood." It's a philosophy that has served the brewery, and Kentucky's craft beer community well.

— Dan Koett

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Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor
444 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507
+1 859 231-9527
James.A.Richardson@ms.com
NMLS #1255648
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