

**WELCOME, NEW ROTARIANS**

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**NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL**

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary:

**Coleman Sloan**

Classification: Medicine, Dentistry, General  
 Sponsor: Karl Lange

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.

# The ROTARY Club of Lexington

# WHEEL HORSE

February 26, 2026  
 — TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Bill Wilson  
 Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Cheyenne McBride  
 Introduction of Guests: Markus Cross  
 Introduction of Speaker: Jim Richardson

Speaker: Darlene Thomas, Executive Director, Greenhouse 17  
 Program:  
**Location: The Mane on Main**

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**MEET OUR SPEAKER**



**DARLENE THOMAS**

Since December 2004, Darlene Thomas has served as the Founder and Executive Director of GreenHouse17, an advocacy organization working to end intimate partner abuse across seventeen central Kentucky counties. With more than thirty-six years of experience in the movement to end power-based violence, Darlene has led efforts in direct service, comprehensive program development, and community engagement for lasting social change.

Her leadership includes guiding statewide and national collaborations, offering expert testimony in legal cases, facilitating trainings at local, state, national, and international forums,

and consulting with organizations seeking to reimagine their services through innovative, trauma-informed approaches. Under her direction, GreenHouse17 has received multiple awards for innovation and impact, including the Commerce Lexington Nonprofit Community Impact Award, the National Purple Ribbon Award for Shelter of the Year, the Theresa Mary Byron Foundation Celebrating Solutions Award, the Kentucky Nonprofit Network Innovative Award, and the Center for Nonprofit Excellence Pyramid Award for Social Innovation. GreenHouse17 was also named a national finalist by the Partnership for Freedom/Reimagine Opportunity initiative.

Darlene currently serves as Past-President and Legislative Chair for ZeroV, Kentucky's coalition against domestic violence.

GreenHouse17's specially trained advocates are available to help people harmed by intimate partner abuse any time of the day, every day of the year. Its main facility is situated on a beautiful forty-acre property in rural Fay-

ette County. From this location and two additional offices in our service area, it can provide these crisis intervention and stabilization services.

- 24-hour hotline (800-544-2022)
- emergency shelter
- safety planning
- legal advocacy
- children's safe exchange and visitation
- individual and group support
- medical and dental treatment
- budget and credit counseling
- supportive housing services
- transportation assistance

Formerly known as the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, the name "GreenHouse17 was adopted in 2013. In explaining the change, it was noted that "new Our new name and brand image are a truer representation of the principles that guide us and our passionate commitment to the mission to end intimate partner violence. Just as the protection of a greenhouse nurtures plants so they grow healthy and strong, GreenHouse17 nurtures human beings, helping them grow, flourish and leave the trauma of abuse behind them."

Visit our website at <http://www.rotarylexky.org> for all of the Rotary Club of Lexington updates.

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**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

- 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 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
- Apr 22** Keeneland Outing, Lexington Room, \$125

The Rotary Club of Lexington  
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Lexington, KY 40507  
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Set up & printing by Lynn Imaging  
Editorial Standards: Chicago Manual of Style, 17th ed.

ROTARIANS GET SERIOUS ABOUT TRIVIAL THINGS!

A trivia question for y'all: where do Rotarians go for fun, good food and drink, and the opportunity to show off their knowledge and claim bragging rights? The answer: Rotary

Trivia Night at Columbia's Steakhouse, organized by your Social Committee.

Committee Chair Susan Adams reports that a good time was had by all at the most recent iteration of Trivia Night, held last Thursday. Four teams competed for the 2026 Rotary trivia champion's title. There was time for socializing during dinner together and also while brainstorming within the teams. If you didn't know the answer, Bill Straus suggested "arugula."

Just ask Barry Stumbo. Oh, and the reigning champs, two years in a row, are Bill and Sherry Straus along with Susan and Kurt Adams. But, considering the fun time experienced by all, everyone was a winner!



Rotary in Review

A HERCULEAN EFFORT TO DECODE THE HERCULANEUM SCROLLS

Our speaker two weeks ago was Dr. Brent Seales, the Stanley and Karen Pigman Chair of Heritage Science and Professor of Computer Science at the University of Kentucky. Before he began his presentation, he thanked Rotarian Dr. Tom Lester, Dean Emeritus of the College of Engineering, for granting him tenure. His fascinating program was "On Perseverance: Virtually Unwrapping the Herculaneum Scrolls." The scrolls date to 79 AD and the day that Herculaneum and the more famous city of Pompeii were destroyed by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. While Pompeii was destroyed by lava, the lesser known and closer town was covered with hot mud and noxious gas, entombing the city and its inhabitants. This toxic mixture soon turned into concrete. Seventeen hundred years later British scientists and engineers began excavation of the site, which included Pliny the Elder's villa, an exact replica of which houses the John Paul Getty Museum of Art in California.

Dr. Seales explained the challenges of unrolling the Herculaneum

Scrolls - or any ancient scroll - which would disintegrate upon touching. The rolled layers are also not flat, adding to the difficulty of deciphering the manuscript. The artifact must be digitally flattened by virtually unwrapping the scroll by using a CT Scanner - techniques all developed at the University of Kentucky. By using an engineering approach and technology, a new image or set of images emerges to enhance scholarship. Using volume cartography, the scrolls were discovered to cover subjects such as Rhetoric, Poetry, Music, Free Speech and Argumentation. The English poet, Wordsworth, lamented the fact of trying to unroll one precious scroll, concluding that history cannot be opened. Three-dimensional scans created cross sections of the manuscripts that could then be internally unwrapped using segmentation and texturing, which created images of the lead or iron ink used.

The difficulty of working with these artifacts was made evident by several replicas of what these manuscripts look like when uncovered that

were passed around for Rotarians to handle. They resemble nothing so much as lumps of coal or some other other, similar hard material. Also passed around were photos of what those "lumps" contained after being subjected to the work of Dr. Seales' team.

Dr. Seales and his team have been able to digitally restore one of the oldest copies of Beowulf and texts that turned out to be the Book of Leviticus found at En Gedi in Jerusalem (where they first proved that the technology and preservation methodology worked). He allowed that his holy grail would be to someday recover a letter from the Apostle Paul. He mentioned that the technology developed at UK has been featured on 60 Minutes and in Le Monde, and the New York Times. The August 2026 National Geographic cover story will be on his team's research and their herculean efforts to bring the Herculaneum Scrolls and other ancient documents back to life.

- Paul B. Chewning

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