

The  
**Rotary**  
Club of Naperville



Leadership Through  
Community Service  
Since 1941



# THE WHEELHOUSE

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Naperville

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# Keeping House

## Catch Up on Our Meetings

Couldn't make a meeting? Here's what you missed.

### **Thursday December 8th**

Members enjoyed a fascinating look behind the scenes at Argonne thanks to nuclear engineer Roger Blomquist.

### **Thursday December 15th**

There was a distinctly relaxed holiday vibe at this week's meeting thanks to the Neuqua Valley Jazz Combo.

### **Thursday December 22nd**

No meeting.

### **Thursday December 29th**

No meeting.

### **Thursday January 5th**

At today's Zoom meeting we heard committee updates in our annual Club Assembly.





# Housework

## Committee Updates

Our committee members are always hard at work behind the scenes. Why not make your New Year's resolution to join one? Here's a glimpse at what's going on.

- Application forms for this year's scholarships should be going live on our website within the first and second weeks of January. Save the dates for the COD Scholarships lunch on March 9<sup>th</sup> and the Community Service grants lunch on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Congratulations to Bill Johnson for organizing another successful blood drive for the Red Cross in November. Together we provided 29 pints of blood.
- The International Service Committee has several new projects under consideration for the new year including providing solar lights and school uniforms for Upendo Village, Kenya and a global grant for Girls and Women Empowerment in Sumitra.

If you missed the Board's update at the January 5 meeting, you can check out the slideshow [here](#).



**Today's Program**



**An Update From The Board**

Rotary Club of Naperville  Leadership Through Community Service Since 1941

**WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER**

# Window View

## What's Coming Up?

Here's a look at what's coming up at our regular meetings.

### **Thursday January 12th**

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Regular meeting at Meson Sabika. Police Chief Jason Arres will be our guest speaker.

### **Thursday January 19th**

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Regular meeting at Meson Sabika. Today's speaker will be Steven Maynard Caliendo of North Central College.

### **Thursday January 25th**

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Raise the Bar. Fun and fellowship after hours at Mike Calabrese's house.



# The Hub

## News and Notables

Looking for some good news? You're in the right place!

### Holiday Party

Members enjoyed a fun evening at Allegory, the popular downtown Naperville restaurant, as we welcomed the holiday season last month. Thanks to Hunter for the great photos! (The full photo album can be found on [Facebook](#))





### Presidential Announcement

Huge congratulations to Mike Calabrese, who will be Club President for the Rotary year 2025-2026. Mike will follow Jacque Clermont who follows Rich Tatara, our next president after Kim White's term is over in June next year.



### Giftmart

Thanks to everyone who supported this year's Giftmart toy drive, the program that helps families of students in school districts 203 and 204. This year, Giftmart collected 4,200 gifts that went to 700 children. Thank you to all who donated and volunteered their time!



# In the House with John Lansing

A big thank you to John Lansing for organizing our merry band of bellringers in December for the Salvation Army. John, who is currently escaping the winter in Texas, found time to share a few things about himself you might not know.

## **When did you join Rotary and who sponsored you?**

I joined at the end of January 2013. I was sponsored by Jim Rothermel, and, I believe, Roger Beutler.

## **Why did you want to join?**

The motto of my high school is non sibi - not for oneself. The idea of service has long been ingrained in me. I wanted to join primarily for the opportunities for service. I also looked forward to the social meeting with many others. I had retired. These were my primary motives.

## **How have you been involved?**

Early on I helped interview high school seniors who had applied for scholarships. For 45 years I had interviewed prospective students for Andover from which I graduated in 1962. I am currently a member of the community service committee and, as you know, for the last two years I have organized Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army.



**What was your profession?**

I spent my career in commercial finance in large-ticket equipment leases and finance. My final position was Vice President-Portfolio Manager in the Equipment Finance group of Merrill Lynch Capital. Once the group was sold to General Electric Capital in 2008, I retired.

**Can you share any details about your family life?**

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1944. I attended school in the Cleveland area through the tenth grade. Then I went east to attend Andover. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania with a major in Economics. My first wife, Mary, to whom I was married for 46 years, passed away in 2011. In 2016, I married my current wife, Billie. Mary and I have three children and seven grandchildren. With Billie I have two stepchildren, one step grandchild, and two step great-grandchildren.

**What hobbies do you enjoy?**

I have long worked on my family's genealogy, and I have cataloged more than 1,000 ancestors. I enjoy woodworking.

**Tell us one thing members may be surprised to learn about you.**

I am a ham radio operator-K9JTL.

**What do you enjoy most about Rotary?**

I highly value the in-person Thursday luncheons.



# Rear View Mirror

## Looking Back

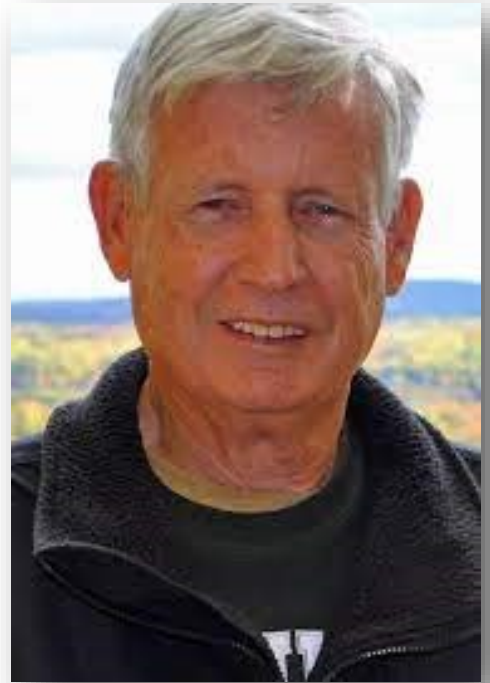
Recently admitted members of the Rotary Club of Naperville may have heard the names of former members but not of their work as members of the Club. Veteran members may recall their former colleagues but specific memories may have faded. Today's article continues a series that looks back at former members of the Club. Some served as president or in other leadership positions; others worked more quietly to make a difference, advancing the ideals of Rotary.

Today we look back on our dear friend and past club president, Glen Ekey. Glen was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his bachelor's degree in recreation administration from Michigan State University and a master's from Purdue University in recreation education.

While at Michigan State, Glen met Marilyn Linsemann, who would become the love of his life. They married on August 23, 1964, a marriage that lasted for over 56 years. Glen was an avid skier, serving for many years on the National Ski Patrol.

Ultimately Glen came to serve the citizens of Naperville as Executive Director of the Naperville Park District from 1981 until his retirement in 1996.

As is the case now, Naperville was a community that has high standards. Glen met and exceeded those standards during a time of explosive growth as Naperville more than doubled in population and the Naperville Park District more than doubled its number of parks, including the addition of a second golf course, Naperbrook. As a leader in the community, Glen presented the concept of Ribfest to the Exchange Club in 1986; the contributions of Ribfest to the community and the agencies and clients who benefit from it are well known.



He formed partnerships with other governmental bodies, the YMCA and other organizations for their mutual benefit, such as sharing in the cost of gymnasium construction, and in so doing, provided cost benefits and more recreational opportunities to the community. This became a model for school and park districts across the country.

In his retirement years, Glen and Marilyn split their time between Naperville and Surprise, Arizona, while also spending time at their longtime getaway cottage in northern Michigan.

Glen was active in numerous organizations in Naperville, including the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, Naperville Development Partnership, United Way and Century Walk, to name a few, as well as statewide organizations. Under his leadership, the Naperville Park District received numerous accolades and Glen himself was recognized for his contributions to parks and recreation and to the community. In 2013, years after his retirement from the Park District, the District renamed the driving range at the Naperbrook Golf Course in Glen's honor, a tribute most fitting as Glen was an avid golfer.

Glen joined the Rotary Club of Naperville in 1981, having been sponsored by John Fields. During his presidential year, 1990-1991, he established a committee to explore the concept of a second Rotary Club in Naperville. It was from this vision that the Sunrise Club rose to shine as a second light of Rotary in our community.

But while Glen was involved with numerous organizations and with all of the accolades that he received throughout his life, Rotary held a special place in his heart. As he explained during Past Presidents' Day program on May 21, 2020, "One of the most wonderful, satisfying experiences, business-wise, personal-wise, that I've ever had is being able to represent the Rotary Club of Naperville as president in 1990."

Glen also noted the importance of the Four-Way Test, that he used it in all of his decision-making processes, and that if he had nothing else to take away from Rotary after all of his years, it would be the Four-Way Test. He admonished the membership to “protect it, abide by it and we will all be better people for it, in Rotary, in our families, communities and throughout the world.”

More of Glen’s Past Presidents’ Day comments are available for viewing (along with those of Paul Lehman, Ken Kolbet and Roy Bynum) at <https://youtu.be/t69dGs3FTis>.

During the summer of 2020, Glen was able to fulfill one of his last wishes, a final weekend at the Michigan cottage with family and friends, a time that was reported as being “a spectacular August weekend with picture-perfect weather.”

Glen passed away on October 23, 2020, following a years-long battle with cancer. Glen is survived by his wife, Marilyn Ekey, their children, David Ekey and Tricia Mueller, their spouses and Glen’s beloved grandchildren. Glen is also survived by our memories of his years with us in service to the community and to Rotary.

Much of the information above previously was included in the author’s tribute to Glen presented in the Club’s Zoom meeting of October 29, 2020. The author also acknowledges the online obituary at the Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home website, <https://www.friedrichjones.com/obituaries/Glen-A-Ekey?obId=18713277>, for additional information.

If any member has a suggestion for a story from the Club’s past, whether a particular individual, Club project or a memorable event, please email the author, [John Knobloch](mailto:John.Knobloch).



# Rotary Celebrates

## Birthdays

Deepika Barua	January 4
Mike Briggs	January 10
Monica Katsigazi	January 1
John Lansing	January 15
Chris Phalon	January 16
Kim Spayer	January 2
Prakasam Tata	January 5
Ross Berkley	January 6

## Anniversaries

Roy Bynum	January 6, 1996
Dave Della Terza	January 9, 2020
Keith Drucek	January 19, 2012
Hossein Jamali	January 17, 2002
John Knobloch	January 1, 1996
John Lansing	January 31, 2013
Pat Merryweather-Arges	January 3, 2002
Brian O'Malley	January 21, 2014
Kim White	January 8, 2015

**This month some words of wisdom from author Neil Gaiman as we start the new year.**

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are:  
Making new things,  
trying new things,  
learning, living,  
pushing yourself  
changing yourself,  
changing the world.”

**We hope you enjoyed this edition of The Wheelhouse.**

**Look out in your inbox on February 6 for our next edition!**