

CLUB SERVICE

4-Way Test—*this week* – Stephen Mueller
 4-Way Test—*next week* – Don Wells
 Program—Tami Burke
 Jan. Greeters – Matt Herpich and Melody Rick
 Jan. Invocation - Carla Cloud
 Jan. Student Hosts – Dean Sackett & Scott Hunter
 SAHS - Andrea Esselman - Student
 AHS - John Boone - Student

GUESTS

Andrea Esselman	Student guest
John Boone	Student guest
Mary Wheeler	guest of Ron Wheeler
Roony Floyd	guest of Phillip Richardson
Sheryll Phillips	guest of Liz Stewart
Sandra Terry	guest of Liz Stewart
Christe Durden	guest of Kay Benitez
Bristi Hunter	guest of Kay Benitez
Lauri Sojourner	Visiting Rotarian Sunrise Rotary

MAKE-UPS

Charles Leopold	Club Service 12/31
Karen Bowles	eClubOne 1/7
Carlos Milanes	eClubOne 1/7
Bob Pistole	Club Service 1/7
Collette Ball	eClubOne 1/7
John McMichael	Club Service 1/14



ROTARY GRANT AWARDS DISTRIBUTED

Liz Stewart addressed the club on January 14 to announce the non-profits selected to receive Community Service Grants to help further their missions as well as Rotary's theme this year—Peace Through Service.

This year, \$8,060 was raised through the members' voluntary contribution towards the Community Service Grant line on their quarterly bill. \$9,000 was awarded through the grant (the club subsidized the \$940 balance). Year-to-Date contributions for grants in the coming year are \$3,967.



The following organizations received grants:

- Aiken Symphony Guild:** the grant will help fund concerto competitions for school-aged children
- SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare:** this grant will help fund the spaying and neutering of pets for pet owners with low incomes
- Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness:** the grant will help 1500 teachers in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Christ Central:** this grant will be used to support those obtaining GEDs and prepare them for the workforce
- Public Education Partners:** this grant will help fund a community service project to honor the military and anti-bullying programs in schools
- Gravatt Camp & Conference Center:** this grant will fund two children to attend Reach-Out—a camp for children with incarcerated parents



Rotary Club of Aiken

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Monday, 12:30 PM

Newberry Hall

117 Newberry Street, SW

www.aikenrotary.org

R.I. President

Sakuji Tanaka

District Governor

Kim Gramling

Club President

Peggy Ford

President Elect

Joe Shields

Vice President

Barbara Morgan

Past President

David Jameson

Secretary/Treasurer

Stanley Smith

Sergeant-at-Arms

Richard Holley

Assistant Governor

Carmen Landy

Board of Directors

Karen Bowles (2013)

Joe Lewis (2013)

Josh Stewart (2013)

Vicki Bukovitz (2014)

Jason Stewart (2014)

John McMichael (2014)

Henry Krippner (2015)

Chuck Munns (2015)

Van Smith (2015)

Sergeants-at-Arms

Chair: Richard Holley

Robert Stack

Ross Culligan

Richard Herring

Tom Calhoun

Wayland Lamar

John McMichael

THE GEAR



The Rotary Club of Aiken

Chartered February 27, 1939

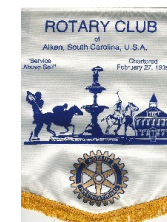
Club 6187—District 7750

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PROGRAM LAST WEEK

by: Jason Price



When introducing fellow Rotarian Kay Benitez as our program speaker two weeks ago, Barbara Morgan remarked that Kay is willing to go places where many do not want to go. As the executive director of Megiddo Dream Station, Kay's mission, through Christ-centered services, is to assist people who have fallen on hard times. Her journey with Megiddo Dream Station started when Weldon Wyatt contacted her in March 2012 to lead the organization after she wrote an article in the Aiken Standard about the correlation between poverty and crime. At the time she was working for the Golden Harvest Food Bank and was happy with what she was doing; however, after much thought and prayer, she decided to take on the challenge of spearheading Megiddo Dream Station.

Located in the Graniteville Academy school building, Megiddo Dream Station's aim is provide more stability to the Midland Valley area by offering education, job training, Bible study, and life-skills classes to help people become more self-sufficient and re-enter the workforce. Through a multi prong approach, Megiddo Dream Station provides positive visions to many in the Valley area who have sorely lost sight.

PROGRAM TODAY

Aiken Community Playhouse
"THE PAJAMA GAME"

FUTURE PROGRAMS

FEB 4 Dr. Darrel Staat, President of SC
Technical College System
FEB 11 Richard Church, Habitat for
Humanity
FEB 18 **NO MEETING**

BIRTHDAYS

1/28 Joe Lewis
1/31 John Lindsay

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1/29 Leonard & Frances Browder
2/1 Barbara & John Strack
2/3 Kay & Mike Benitez

CLUB MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1/31 Thomas Hofstetter (2000)
2/1 Scott Hunter (1987)
2/1 Chris Verenes (2003)

This issue proofed by Dave Tavernier



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Owen Clary

TEN YEARS AGO - JANUARY 2003

For our last two programs in January of 2003, we were concerned with health and medicine. K. D. Justyn, CEO of Aiken Regional Medical Centers, gave us an update on our major health institution of our area. A newcomer, Dr. Mark Meiler, a geriatrician, told us that 75 is considered early old, and that more senior citizens lead active productive lives into their 80's and 90's. (Well now, those of us who heard him ten years ago, are now ten years older, and many are now early old).

FROM OUR PAST - FROM "THE GEAR" JAN 1993

Our last meeting of January 1993 was held at the Aiken County Museum and Carolina Bar B Que served us a good meal. Afterwards, we were led on tours of the museum by the director at that time, Bill Parchen. (Since then, the Museum has had two other Directors, Carolyn Miles, and that interloper from Maine, Elliott, what's his name, Levy. The latter has become a fixture in this town and takes a lot of ribbing from us fellow Rotary members).

HISTORICAL NOTES AND FACTS-1983

The local president of Bankers Trust of South Carolina gave the last program in January of 1983. He spoke on "Banking in the Future" and one thing he said was that banks will be slimmer in the future with fewer tellers. (Well, he was right, and he probably didn't anticipate credit cards to be used in ATM machines). Also, he probably didn't anticipate the mergers of many banks. His bank is now gone. It merged with another bank, which then merged with another bank and his old building (which is that present modern monstrosity which replaced the old demolished handsome Bank of Western Carolina building) is now part of the city office complex.

AN UPDATE ON JANUARY'S STUDENTS-OF-THE-MONTH

South Aiken High School Student, **Andrea Esselman**, according to host, **Dean Sackett**, is 4th in her class and has been accepted into the Honor's colleges at USC and Furman. She is interested in majoring in Broadcast Journalism.



Aiken High School Student, **John Boone**, hosted by **Scott Hunter**, is 3rd in his class. His plans now include attending Wake Forrest and becoming a physician. He is currently in the midst of competing in tennis tournaments—the latest being in Mississippi.



LETTERS OF THANKS

Aiken Rotary Club has received several letters of thanks from generousities the Club has had the pleasure of contributing to the community in the past months. Salvation Army thanked us for assisting with bell ringing that raised more than \$85,000 this year. Camp Gravatt, the Aiken Symphony Guild, and the SPCA sent notes in thanks for the grants received last week. Finally, Fern Brooks, widow of Joe Brooks, thanked Rotary for the \$100 that was donated to the Foundation in his honor. To view copies of any notes, contact Stan Smith.

CLASSIFICATION TALK: RICHARD GARCIA

by: Jason Price



Richard Garcia has worn many hats over the years and his latest one is serving as the Marketing Director and Performance Coach for Right at Home of the CSRA. Right at Home of the CSRA offers nonmedical, caregiving services to those who want to enjoy healthy lives in the comfort of a familiar environment.

Richard moved to the Aiken area in 1982 from Columbus, Georgia, after falling in love with the Aiken's parkways and downtown. Richard has devoted himself to being actively involved in the Aiken area and given his various job roles and community affiliations, he is notably passionate about providing quality customer service and is committed to Rotary's motto "Service Above Self" through previously serving as President of Rotary Sunrise Aiken and currently being an active member of the Aiken Rotary Club.

TWO NEW PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS INDUCTED



Jason Stewart and **John Girardeau** joined the fellowship of Rotarians as they received their first Paul Harris Fellow awards on January 14.