



The Sunrise

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Sunrise Calendar

Subject to change

This month our meetings are at Naperville Country Club

April

- 4: Regular meeting, 7am, NCC – Naperville historian Tom Castagnoli
- 11: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – St. Paddy's Day 5K Celebration and sponsor recognition
- 18: No meeting
- 25: Regular meeting, 7am, NCC – Youth, Vocation, and International Committees
- 25: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – committee reports
- 28: Trivia night – 7pm at Elements in the Hotel Indigo

*direct ideas for speakers
and Club projects to Ginnie Moore*



Chris Porst led the field with a time of 15:26.

Warm Temperatures, High Spirits



Steve Essig leads 728 runners and walkers out of our 5K start gate. All but one crossed the finish line.



Fastest senior Philip Maughan



Student volunteers



Fastest green beer pourers, the Belgio crew.

View entire 5K photo album at:
<https://www.napervillesunrise.com/events/5k>

(More)



April 2025 (cont.)

Grant Recipients



Deb Newman presented grant money to five non-profits from left: **Susan Kearney**, St. Thomas Church; **Nancy Chatterjee**, West Suburban Community Pantry; **Renee Miklosik**, DuPage Children’s Museum; **Deb Newman**; **Dr. Trudie Ramson**, Indian Prairie Educational Foundation; **Hannah Klinnert**, Community Access Naperville.

Building a Foundation



Recent **Paul Harris Award** recipients from left: **Bruce George**, **Stephanie Randall**, **Marion Ruthig**, **Bruce Dixon**, **John Keough**, **Mike Tenuta**, **Mary Ann Bobosky**, **Mike Briggs** (Little Friends, Inc). Not shown: **Serkar Erkoca**, **Srini Namasivayam**, **Nick Niemi**, **Ankit Shrivastava**, **Bill Eagan**, **Mark Halligan**, **Tim Belgio**, **Tom Miers**.

The **Paul Harris Fellow** recognition from Rotary International acknowledges individuals who contribute \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation or have contributions made in their name, and can be recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow, with options for multiple recognitions based on cumulative contributions. For further information, contact Foundation Chair **Mike Tenuta**.

Little Friends Update



From left: Grants Mgr. **Matt Downing**, Chief Development Officer **Jason Altenbern**, CEO **Mike Briggs**.

Little Friends, Inc., services to the community have ballooned since our first donation to the non-profit in 2004, **CEO Mike Briggs** told our February 21 breakfast. Little Friends, a provider of resources for children and adults with autism and developmental disabilities, now supports over 800 clients annually, Briggs said. “We have a family care team and receive between 120 and 150 referrals a month. We’re a 28 million dollar organization and we have 360 full- and part-time employees.

Briggs added that Little Friends works with children from age three through adolescence at locations in Warrenville and Aurora. “These are kids who are too difficult and disruptive to be dealt with in regular schools.”

Offerings include residential services at 44 homes providing support services for the Department of Child and Family Services; an adult day program; twice-monthly respite family services; and expanded employment services “to help people find community integrated setting opportunities where people can work and (get) the tools, skills, and self-confidence to work in a community setting.”

Little Friend’s is expanding its program to include people with physical disabilities by merging with the Illinois Independent Living Center (Katherine Manor) on Iroquois, which contains 32 apartments and is located on Iroquois Avenue next to the new Costco.

(More)



April 2025 (cont.)



From left: **Deb Newman**, PDG **Nicki Scott**, President **Marion Ruthig**, President-elect **Bill Hassett**, Vice-President **Jinnie Moore**

Former Sunrise Rotarian **Nicki Scott** attended our March 14 breakfast before returning to England. Nicki joined our club 2002, becoming president and then district governor. Nicki returned to the UK permanently in 2018 and was then named VP of Rotary International. She was the keynote speaker at the recent President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) in Itasca, where she emphasized the global power of rotary to overcome obstacles to disease eradication. “Rotary can get these things done because we’re non-religious and non-political,” she said. “Right now, there’s a major effort to eliminate malaria in Zambia, a cervical cancer vaccination project in Sri Lanka and Egypt. And polio remains in Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

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Goods donated by Sunrise Rotarians for Exodus World Service, an organization mobilizing communities to welcome and befriend refugees.”

Know Your Rotarian

Chris Kerstin is a case study in survival. In 1990 his car was involved in a “hit-and-run” after Chris drove onto the Kennedy expressway with a damaged wheel. Another car hit him, causing the wheel to come off and his car to roll end over end. He said a good samaritan pulled him out of the wreck (photo). “I had a broken neck and shattered (7th and 8th thoracic) vertebrae. Told he would never walk again, Chris opted to undergo a new surgical procedure that would produce a better outcome. He recalled that his niece, **Pam**, came to his hospital bedside, looked at him, and said, “Uncle Chris, can you walk with me?” and I couldn’t let her down.”



His second brush with disability came as a Wisconsin motorcycle accident that almost cost him his left leg and required multiple surgeries.

Chris was born in 1968 as his parents, **Donald**, and **Irma**, were looking for a house. They found a cute Japanese-style home in Elk Grove Village. Irma was a gourmet chef who gave cooking classes in her kitchen and had a TV cable show, “Cooking with Irma.” Chris often accompanied his dad on his milk deliveries to stores. He reminded Chris that “If you’re old enough to eat, you’re old enough to work.” Donald, a Korean War veteran, died at the age of 93; Irma lived to the age of 83.

Chris, a certified financial planner, started his career as a representative at Northwestern Mutual (NWM). Six years ago, he started Core Planning Partners within the NWM private client group that now boasts \$350 million in entrusted client money.

Chris’ passions include his family, coaching sports, and riding his motorcycle.

(End)