



The Sunrise

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Sunrise Calendar

Subject to change

December

- 5: No meeting – Mayor's interfaith breakfast at Fry YMCA
- 9: Board meeting, 7:15am, virtual
- 11: Biscotti social at **Nania's**. 6:30pm (reservations full)
- 12: Regular Club meeting, 7am NIU campus – **Geoff Roehll**, Riverwalk update
- 19: Club Christmas party, 7am, NIU campus
- 26: No meeting

direct ideas for speakers

We have launch!

Rotarians, volunteers, and contract workers descended on Reebie Storage, Jaycee Park, and Water Street on November 7 and 8 to raise our holiday lights display. Once again, **Lynne Nolan** was our on-site stage manager and cheerleader. The 2025 photo gallery is at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/RLjqxBZd96YNB3qP6>



Unloading the truck: **Dawn Newman, Serdar Erkoca**



Ron Amato, Paul DeKruiff, Lynne, Laurie DeKruiff.



Pat Gilhooly



Nick Niemi and Ryan Siebert

Stephan Chriqui



Maria Laterza



Tom Castagnoli



(More)



December 2025 (cont.)

African Water Project Gets Green Light

Rotary International has approved our International Committee's global grant application to provide safe water for rural health facilities in the Bombali District of Sierra Leone. The Rotary Club of Freetown-Sunrise is hosting the project. **Bruce George** wrote the grant application. **Dawn Newman** chairs the International Committee.



Good news

In the application, Bruce explained that "many peripheral health facilities in rural Bombali District lack a safe water supply. This project will install six or more water points at six or more peripheral health units (PFUs) to improve infection prevention and control, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and provide access to safe drinking water." He said a significant hygiene training component will be included.

This project is in line with the International Committee's emphasis on water, sanitation, and hygiene reflected in previous efforts in Zambia, Haiti, Guatemala, and an ongoing project in Kenya.



The Bombali District lies in northern Sierra Leone.

From the November Board Meeting

Rotarian **Dimple Modgil** donated \$3,000 to our foundation budget to be used at the Foundation Committee's discretion. **President Marion** thanked Dimple for her generosity.



Dimple



Dawn has begun raising \$500,000 to build a school and dormitory for the orphans at Cheryl's Home in Nairobi, Kenya. Dawn said the build-up would serve high school and trade school students who are aging out of Cherish Watoto, facilitating their transition to 9th grade. **Deb Newman** helped find grant funding. Our Club is a longtime benefactor of Cheryl's Home.

The Board earmarked \$250 to the Swifty Foundation in honor of our late President **Bill Hassett**. **Mary Ann Bobosky** allocated \$300 from the Vocational Fund for our annual Christmas gift to the Naperville Country Club food service crew. The board also voted to use \$1,500 of our Greater Good Fund for construction of a greenhouse on Little Friends property.

Membership cochair **Geoff Roehll** asked Rotarians who are communicating with potential new members to send him copies of those communications so that he and **Tom Miers** can follow through with the application process.

Geoff Roehll's acclaimed landscape architecture firm, Hitchcock Design Group, has joined forces with RVi Landscape Architecture. RVi, headquartered in Austin, TX, is a national firm recognized for its contributions in planning, landscape architecture, and brand and urban design.

(More)



December 2025 (cont.)

Interact Update



Neuqua Valley High School Interact Executive Board, from left, **Soumya Trivedi**, **Amav Godambe**, **Ananya Jaiswal**, **Laura Dabezic** (sponsor), **Gillian Schneider** (sponsor), **Kylie Tran**, Club President **Marion Ruthig**.

Representatives from the Neuqua Valley High School Interact Club stopped by to update us on their activities. New this year is a program focused on getting freshmen involved in Interact. The Interact Club provides numerous opportunities to serve the community and gain leadership skills. Among events on the Club's 2025 agenda:

- Naperville Park District events
- St. Paddies Day 5K
- Rotary Ride
- Kendall Robotics Club
- Scullen tutoring
- Naper Settlement
- Blanket making
- Naperville Turkey Trot 5K
- Naper Lights setup
- Christmas at Cantigny
- Bookmarks for elementary students

Board President **Amav Godambe** thanked us for the 2024 Grant that financed a student trip to Rotary International headquarters in Evanston. "It was an (impressive) experience...It was cool to learn more about Rotary, and it really benefitted our club to be more immersed in the community and learn the different initiatives that Rotary does (such as) eradicating polio." A digital video of the R.I. tour is a work in progress.

Know Your Rotarian

Deb Newman told her children, "Everything that ever happened to you is going to add up at some point, and you're going to realize all the good stuff – and not so good stuff – that happened is going to help you become who you are."



For Deb, those experiences included "creative and interesting" parents: her father was a physician who wrote poetry, and her mother a nurse. They were generous with their time, and they encouraged probing conversations around the dinner table, often focused on giving back to the community. Mom brought health care to low-income residents in Bridgeport, Connecticut, once sharing a stage with **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Dad took care of VA patients on weekends "when other physicians were playing golf." It follows that 80% of Deb's marketing and communication business is devoted to non-profits.

Deb self-describes four attributes: curiosity, creativity, compassion, and humor. She wrote her first piece of legislation at age 27 for the city of Aurora. Her mother taught her to create a referendum petition when she was in 8th grade; it resulted in construction of a sidewalk "so that my sister did not have to walk through the woods and over stone walls to get home from school." Deb says, "this gave me the courage...to do a lot of other things politically."

This adventuresome Connecticut Yankee has travelled extensively, earned two degrees, worked in TV and Radio, provides publicity for our Club, and is currently working on her third book. "I love the capacity of words to tell stories, to illuminate, and to ask questions."

(End)