



The Sunrise

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Sunrise Calendar

Subject to change

This month our meetings are at Naperville Country Club

March

- 1-2: Midwest President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS)
- 07: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – **Shae Hess**, Know Your Rotarian
- 14: Regular Club Meeting, 7am, NCC – **Katie Wood**, Downtown Naperville Alliance
- 15: St. Paddy's Day 5K
- 21: Rotary Day of Service
- 28: No meeting

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

A Scholarship Success Story

Meet **Christine Akoth**, a young student who grew up in Dago, an impoverished village in Kenya. Christine was introduced to us by **Brett Weiss**, founder and director of the Weiss Scholarship Foundation (WSF). The WSF educates Kenyan students and “breaks the cycle of poverty...by providing access to the education and support they need to succeed.”



Lynne Nolan, Brett Weiss, Christine Akoth.

Christine graduated from a top-tier high school in Kenya and, thanks to WSF support is now a 3rd year student at Elmhurst College with plans to take the Medical College Admissions Test later this year. Brett said the Foundation hopes to bring more Kenyan students to the U.S. Separate from the Weiss Foundation, our Club also supports students at Cherish Watoto in Nairobi. International Chair **Dawn Newman** said these students will go on to either high school or trade school.

Volunteers Still Needed



“Gee dad...do I have to finish?”

5K honcho Ryan Siebert says his committee is on track to sound the 5K start horn Saturday morning, March 15. “Runner registration numbers are good...running comparable to last year,” he told our February 21 breakfast. There are still open volunteer slots for packet pickup (Thursday and Friday) and for race day. To sign up, please go to:

<https://www.napervillesunrise.com/events/5k>

The weather forecast for mid-March is promising!



Christina Akoth speaking to our Club

(More)



March 2025 (cont.)

Preventing On-line Hate

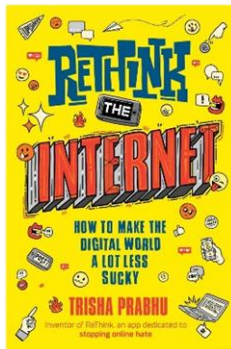
“What’s up? Here’s what adults didn’t know when they bought this book: I’m a young person too, so I hate the lecturing, cringey (sic), sappy ‘life lessons’ just as much as you do. That’s not what this book is about. It’s also not here to make you use your phone in a certain way, or to claim that technology is ‘bad.’” - - **Trichia Pradhu** in the preview of her book, “Rethink the Internet; how to make the digital world less sucky.”



In her January 10 remarks to Rotarians, the young author and entrepreneur explained why her anti-bullying book may push all the right buttons for young people beset by hate on social media: It speaks their language.

Pradhu said that about half of U.S. youth aged 13 to 17 have been cyber bullied, yet the grim reality is underreported by the media. according to the Naperville native and Harvard graduate.

Unfortunately, said Pradhu, current prevention techniques are failing. “So, I wondered if I could stop cyber bullying at the source, before it starts, rather than waiting for damage to be done. What I’ve learned is that the teenage brain’s higher functions are not developed until the age of 20. Young people struggle to make decisions and to think through the consequences of their actions.”



Hold on! - Then Pradhu thought, “let me try and get young people to pause, rethink (and) make better decisions. My idea was simple: as young people are typing on a device, (give them) a technology that can intelligently and proactively detect that what they’re about to say could be offensive and prompt them with an alert...HOLD ON! Are you sure you want to say that?” In Pradhu’s nine-month study of Rethink, 93 percent of the youth aged 13 to 18, given a chance to rethink, changed their minds and decided not to say something offensive. Collaborating with schools, Pradhu now has Rethink on multiple platforms in nine languages. “Last year we were able to bring our anti-hate educational curriculum and technology to 41,550 youth across the country.”

A Thankful Pantry



Stephanie Randall and Deb Newman at the May 10 food and diaper collection.

Deb Newman shared with us a thank-you letter from the West Suburban Community Pantry: “Your in-kind donation of 450 pounds of non-perishable foods received in November 2024 is helping West Suburban Community Pantry provide many people with food and hope. Because of organizations such as yours, we fed over 6,000 households a month last year.

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It was one year ago that **Tom Miers** had a stroke during a skiing trip to Colorado. Following the old adage, Tom

returned to the slopes to “get back on the horse.” Understandably, skiing didn’t bring the usual joy; “I haven’t got all of my confidence back,” he said, “but at least I got on the mountain.” He also gave a private lesson to a friend.



We greeted guest **Meghna Bansal** from the Rotary Club of Naperville.

(End)