



Rotary Opens Opportunities

CLUB PRESIDENT
Brad Stegall



THE GREEN LIGHT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA — Club 3238

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CHARTERED 1913
CLUB NO. 76

Rotary
Club of Peoria



Weekly Meeting at The Warehouse
Friday, March 12, 2021 at 12:00 PM

Speaker: Ashley Schreck, Director of Marketing, EPIC

Topic: Update on Murray Baker Bridge Lighting

If you would like to attend this week's in-person meeting, please [click here to submit an RSVP](#) - we look forward to seeing you on Friday!!!

John Morris, President & CEO, Peoria Riverfront Museum **2021 Peoria Riverfront Museum Updates**



At last week's meeting, John Morris, President and CEO of the Peoria Riverfront Museum spoke to Peoria Rotarians live from the Museum via Zoom. The Museum reopened to the public on March 6th after a Covid-induced closure of many months.



But John Morris says eight months into the fiscal year, the museum is as strong financially as it has even been. As evidence of the museum's popularity, John Morris pointed out that some 80,000 people had viewed - via Zoom - the "Great Conjunction" of Jupiter and Saturn in just one hours' time on December 21st as seen at the Museum's Dome Planetarium.

Morris gave a walking tour (live from the Museum via Zoom) of the exhibit entitled "101 Treasures" from the Museum's permanent collection. That collection includes everything from a Mastodon jawbone to the New Yorker cartoons of Mendota, Illinois artist Helen Hokinson to a Frank Lloyd Wright designed chair which once resided in the Little house on Peoria's Moss Avenue.



The big news of the address was the donation to the museum of the "Bronzeville to Harlem, An American Story" sculpture by Peorian, Preston Jackson, illustrating the time of the great migration by African Americans to cities in the north in the 1920's and 1930's. Preston Jackson's amazing sculpture is a must-see experience. The optimism and promise of American opportunity reflected in the Harlem Renaissance is perfectly relevant to the life of our community today.





So You Thought You Knew about Carol Merna's and Jana' Stevens' Pandemic Puppies! (In 200 words or less!) By Edith Barnard

Toilet Paper and Puppies were among the most sought-after commodities in the early Pandemic. In our club full of colorful, fun members, we have six Rotarians who have adopted "Pandemic Puppies!" Some of these Puppy Parents, may surprise you!! We begin our canine adventure with Carol Merna and Jana' Stevens' sharing stories about their puppies!
(Keep an eye out, there's four more Rotarian puppy escapades to come!)

CAROL MERNA



"In August 2020 we unexpectedly lost our dachshund, Junior, to cancer. Junior was, we believed, the perfect dog, handsome, happy, calm, funny and loving. When he died, our grief was deep.

Around Halloween, which would have been Junior's 5th birthday, Tim and I began looking at puppies online talking about "what ifs". We heard from rescues, breeders, scammers, the whole gamut. It was overwhelming. After weeks of window shopping and wishful thinking, we heard from a woman who sent us a photo of a tiny long-haired, blue, miniature dachshund with soulful eyes. We were smitten and began the process of trust building with the breeder. She was reputable, her references were solid and when we met this shaggy little puppy in a virtual meeting, the deal was done. We named him Charlie Blue and he came to live with us on December 13.

We quickly learned that our memories about having a puppy were selective. It is hard work! Charlie is rambunctious and at times wild, but he's also warm and loving. We're growing accustomed to his high energy, his sharp puppy teeth, his love for chewing toys, fingers, arms, shoes, the corner of our refrigerator, chair legs, paper towels, etc. We are dog-tired but are happily and comfortably settling into being Charlie's humans. I don't know if there's ever a "right" time to adopt a puppy. Yet, I feel certain that embracing Charlie was the best decision. He has brought healing and happy exhaustion to our house."

JANA' STEVENS'



"We got Lottie (Charlotte Catherine) in September 2020 as a five-month-old puppy from Safe Haven Dog Rescue in Elburn, Illinois. (That's the same place we got our other dog – Louie George) They told us Lottie was a Dane/Heeler mix, but after some genetic testing, we found she's a mix of mostly American Staffordshire Terrier and Australian Cattle Dog. She's a wild and crazy little lady, and we adore her. She's obsessed with our cats and going to Doggie Daycare. She's loves her family and welcomes us home each day with A LOT of love, tail wagging, and wiggles. (Also, some jumping - we are working on that!)

As to the name, Louie was named after England's Prince Louis and Prince George - so, Charlotte was, of course, named after their sister, Princess Charlotte, and mom, Princess Catherine! (I can thank my daughters for that!)

I think the hardest part of getting a puppy during COVID-19 has been socialization. She's much timider around people when we are out - could be the breed, but could be that we just haven't been out and about with her as much as we were with Louie when he was a puppy. Thank goodness for Doggie Daycare - that has certainly helped! I'll be thrilled when training facilities open up again - we'll immediately sign up for obedience school!!"

Meeting Information

March In-Person Meetings

March 12th - Meeting at the Warehouse

Speaker: Ashley Schreck, Director of Marketing, EPIC
Topic: Update on Murray Baker Bridge Lighting
Invocation: Carmen McCarthy | **Greeter:** Carmen McCarthy
Door Prize: Carmen McCarthy

March 19th - Meeting at the Warehouse

Speaker: Dr. Aaron Buchko, Professor, Management & Leadership, Bradley University
Topic: Leadership in Light of COVID-19
Invocation: TBD | **Greeter:** TBD | **Door Prize:** John Wahlfeld

March 26th - Meeting at the *Barrack's Cater Inn*

Speaker: Carl Wilkens, Co-Founder & Director of World Outside My Shoes
Topic: "I'm Not Leaving" Story of the Only American to Stay in Rwanda During the 1994 Genocide
Invocation: Kate Schureman | **Greeter:** TBD | **Door Prize:** Kate Schureman

This week's meeting will be held at [THE WAREHOUSE](#) 736 SW Washington St Peoria, IL 61602. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at Noon.

For members who are not able or who prefer to not attend in-person, we will still be offering the meeting via Zoom.

To keep all our members safe, we are asking you to please adhere to the following guidelines for In-Person Meetings:

- ◆ Please wear a mask at all times - with the exception of eating.
- ◆ Please maintain social distancing guidelines of 6 feet between you and others.
- ◆ Please do not come to the meeting if you are not feeling well or have any symptoms such as: fever, cough, difficulty breathing or nausea.

Upcoming Events



Please
JOIN US

The Social Committee has organized a Social Event at Industry Brewing on Wednesday, March 24th from 5pm-7pm. If you would like to attend, please email infodowntown@peoriarotary.org and we will add you to the RSVP list.

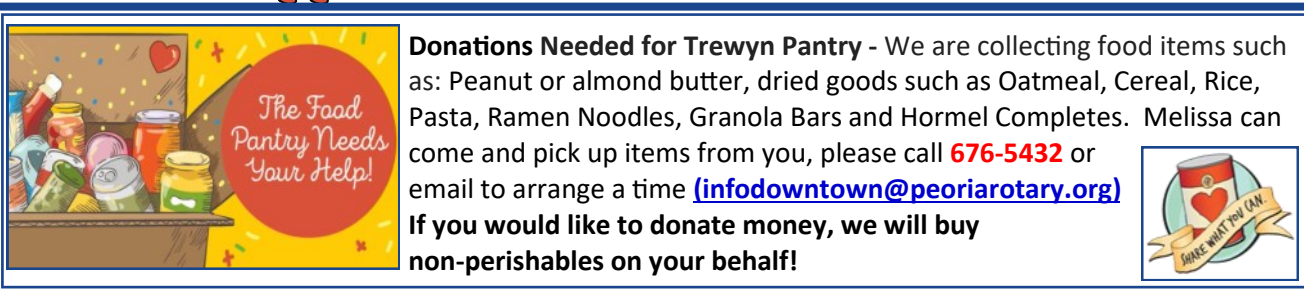
Can't make it to the In-Person Meeting?
[CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM](#)

Meeting ID: 897 6608 1791
Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US
(Chicago)

Look at how much fun we had at last week's meeting



Volunteer Opportunities



The Food Pantry Needs Your Help!

Donations Needed for Trewyn Pantry - We are collecting food items such as: Peanut or almond butter, dried goods such as Oatmeal, Cereal, Rice, Pasta, Ramen Noodles, Granola Bars and Hormel Completes. Melissa can come and pick up items from you, please call **676-5432** or email to arrange a time (infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)
If you would like to donate money, we will buy non-perishables on your behalf!



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Rotary Club of Peoria, IL



Rotary



Photo Courtesy of the Journal Star