

The
Rotary
Club of Naperville



Leadership Through
Community Service
Since 1941



THE WHEELHOUSE

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Naperville

Editor: Hilary Decent (hilarydecent@gmail.com)

Keeping House

Catch Up on Our Meetings

Couldn't make a meeting? Here's what you missed.

Thursday December 7th

At today's in person meeting at Meson Sabika Jeanne Schultz Angel, Associate Vice President, Naperville Settlement, spoke on interesting holiday traditions from around the world. Congratulations to Chris Phalon, who was elected Club President nominee designate for 2026-2027!

Thursday December 14th

The last meeting of the year was a good one! Mike Milano was installed as our newest member and students from Naperville Central High School entertained us with their music under the leadership of DJ Alstadt. We also thanked Danny and the rest of the team at Meson Sabika for all their great service during the year.



Thursday December 21st

No meeting. Happy Holidays!

Thursday December 28th

No meeting. Happy New Year!

Thursday January 4th

The first meeting of the new year took place via Zoom. Nikki Green, Life and Business Resiliency Expert, spoke to us about how to adapt to the ever-changing business environment.



Window View

What's Coming Up?

Here's a peek at what's coming up this month.

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Thursday January 11th

Regular meeting at 12.15 p.m. Meson Sabika.

Club Assembly.

Thursday January 18th

Regular meeting at 12.15 p.m. Meson Sabika.

Program TBA

Thursday January 25th

5.30 p.m. Raise the Bar.

Location TBA



Looking for some good news? You're in the right place!

Parade with a Purpose

Congratulations once again to our Holiday Parade committee for another successful event. Save the date for February 8th when the proceeds (between \$60,000 and \$70,000!) will be distributed to deserving beneficiaries.

(see rerun photos, next page)

Saved by the Bells

A chilly December day just before Christmas didn't deter some hardy Rotarians from joining the Salvation Army's Red Kettle fundraiser last month. This year we helped to raise money outside Jewel-Osco on 95th Street. Thanks to everyone who participated and John Lansing for organizing. We raised a total of \$577.75.



Parade with a Purpose (Photos: Continued from Previous Page)



Small Cog in a Big Wheel

Find out how our club is following the example set by Rotary International.

It's that time of year again! We're asking you to nominate someone in the community to receive a Paul Harris Fellowship Award this spring. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 7th 2024.**

Paul Harris Fellowship Community Awards

Overview: Rotarians believe in the motto "Service Above Self". The best example of this is the work performed through The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Rotary established the Paul Harris Fellow recognition in 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for individuals who have made substantial contributions to The Rotary Foundation. The award is named in honor of the founder of Rotary. Paul Harris Fellows receive a certificate and pin.

Rotarians have a tradition of supporting the Foundation by honoring others. Since 1979, each Rotary club has been challenged to make at least one non-Rotarian a Paul Harris Fellow. The Rotary Club of Naperville has chosen to honor several non-Rotarians each year with Paul Harris Fellowships presented at a noon club meeting typically held in April or May.

Club members nominate non-Rotarians from our community who they feel are worthy of consideration for a Paul Harris Fellowship. The Foundation Committee reviews the nominees and selects the final recipients. The Foundation Committee also organizes the awards luncheon where a formal presentation is made to each recipient.

Nominations for the awards are organized under the "5 Avenues of Service" that guide Rotary Clubs worldwide. For the community awards, we extend the category definitions to include persons who contribute to other service clubs, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies serving our community. All nominees must not be members of any Rotary Club. One or more awards are typically given each year in each category at the discretion of the Committee. Here are the five categories:

Club Service focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club. Facilitation of training helps to strengthen member knowledge and skills. Clubs have serious topics to work toward, so having various social events that bring together members and their guests informally and for fun, contributes to genuine fellowship.

Community Service covers the projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in its community. Nominees typically have contributed significant effort and leadership toward achievements by their organization that reflect the spirit and character of projects Rotary Clubs would undertake.

International Service encompasses actions taken to expand humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace. Nominees have supported International Service by sponsoring one or more projects in another country, seeking international project partners to support projects in their own communities, or by personally volunteering at an international project site.

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Vocational Service nominees serve others through their vocations and practice high ethical standards consistent with the expectations of Rotary Club members. They have significantly contributed to the betterment of the community using their professional skills.

New Generations/Youth Service nominees work to engage youths and young adults in leadership roles. This includes activities to promote leadership development in organizations similar to RYLA, Rotaract, and Interact, as well as promotion of service projects targeted for new generations/youth.

Paul Harris Fellowship Community Awards Nomination Form

Be sure to include the nominee's name, affiliation, and in 100 words or less, your rationale for this nomination. An on-line form can be found at www.RotaryClubofNaperville.org.

Sample: Mary Prekosovich is one of those people who could be described as an Energizer bunny, because she continues to keep going. More accurately, Mary continues to serve others than self, at the age of 96! She has been volunteering at Serendipity for over 20 years, which is a local resale shop selling clothes, jewelry, and other items for the benefit of the Little Friends organization providing services to those with developmental disabilities. Prior to giving birth to seven children, Mary was trained as a nurse; and as they grew she returned to school to reacquire her professional skills and then returned to work professionally. That included working at two nursing homes in Naperville, providing both physical and psychological services to seniors until she became 73. During and after employment, she served along with other volunteers in programs at DuPage County Jail, Grace Methodist Church, Hesed House, and St. Raphael's Catholic Church. She still continues in some of those programs plus at Serendipity. She is someone very special and well deserving of recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Nominee's Name: _____

Business/Professional Affiliation: _____

Nominated by: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Please identify the one or more Rotary Avenue of Service that you are recommending for this nominee:

Avenues of Service: Club____ Community____ International____ Vocational____ Youth____

Please explain your reasons for this nomination (attach an extra page, if needed):

Thank You! Please return your completed form by March 7, 2024 to Dick Galitz (e-mail: dickgalitz@att.net)

The form is also available electronically at www.RotaryClubofNaperville.org

In the House with Roger Iliff

It's amazing what you can find out when you chat with a Rotarian. Who would have thought our tallest member used to take ballet classes! Read on to find out more.

Q. When did you join Rotary and who sponsored you?

A. I joined in 2016, sponsored by Barry McKeown

Q. Why did you want to join?

A. I wanted to get involved in working internationally and in the local community

Q. How have you been involved?

A. I've served on the International Service, Community Service, Youth Service and RSVP committees.

Q. What is your profession?

A. I'm a retired MD. I worked as primary care doctor and athletic medicine doctor serving Berkeley Orinda and Lafayette, University of California Athletics and City of Berkeley Fire.

Q. Can you share any details about your family life?

A. I have one daughter and two grandchildren living in Florida. My wife of 35 years died in 2017 of cancer. I met my current wife Kathy through the LeSage family, Leo, who was a member of this club, and Carolyn. My wife has two step children and three grandkids who live locally.

Q. What hobbies do you enjoy?

A. I take piano lessons, read science, medicine, and biographical works. I take continuing medical education classes and tests to maintain my volunteer medical license. We love to travel and have two dogs, Pippen and Jordan.

Q. Tell us one thing members may be surprised to learn about you.

A. When I was a practicing MD our practice took care of the dramatic and dance community, so was able to be the doctor for a Miss America, members of the Berkeley Rep Theater and Oakland Ballet. I took ballet lessons with the Oakland Ballet School for a time (not cut out for a ballet career obviously).

Q. What do you enjoy most about Rotary?

A. The opportunity to participate in local and international service and meet many fellow Rotarians personally and by Zoom. The opportunity to travel to places the Rotary works in the world including Honduras (school and WASH) projects and India with multiple projects like dialysis centers, ambulance donation, Water and WASH project, and of course Polio eradication.

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In the House with Roger Iliff



Rear View Mirror

This month club historian John Knobloch continues his Rotary Tour Around Naperville

After 54 years in Naperville, I have seen a lot of changes. With 28 years as a member of the Rotary Club of Naperville, there are many places in the city that bring back Rotary-related memories. Last month, we started our journey of the mind. Now, imagine that we are back on the road, to visit more of those sites:

Having said goodbye to Mike Briggs at the Naperville Country Club, we proceed west, into the older section of town. Going north on Loomis, as we approach North Central College, I am reminded of a meeting conducted by Gene Drendel (club president 1998-1999), with Rita Harvard (president 1994-1995), myself and possibly others at Gene's NCC office concerning the feasibility of the club employing a part-time administrator. Years later, this role would be filled by Erin O'Donnell.

North Central was also the stomping grounds of our former members Rick Spencer and Mike Squire, years before our current member Maria Caselli joined the club.

As we pass by Burlington Square Park, past president (1978-1979) Tom Eganhouse's former veterinary office is across the square. We also pause to admire "Spirit of the American Navy" and "Tragedy to Triumph," two pieces from the Century Walk Corporation. Brand Bobosky promoted the concept of such public art to the club in my early years as a member. The Century Walk board has included past club president Jim Bergeron, Sr. (1995-1996), Glen Ekey (1990-1991) and Rita Harvard (1994-1995), as well as Dick Galitz, Don Weber, Stephanie Penick, Joe Schultz, Mike Krol, John Higgins, Steve Coates, Chuck Seidel, Mindy Loebach, Jill Lejsek, and Roy Grundy.

As we cross the tracks on Loomis Street, the former Kroehler factory is on our left. Past president (1960-1961) Walt Schall was plant manager there for 21 years, until his retirement in 1979. After the building was redeveloped as Fifth Avenue Station, Raffi's on 5th, a restaurant owned and operated by our member Raffi Demerdjian, was a tenant there for twelve years. Raffi hosted a number of our members for one of our Business-to-Business lunches, on which occasion I was present there. (Other members were simultaneously hosted at the businesses of other members.)

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Rear View Mirror

Going east we pass the home of former Mayor George Pradel, a longtime member of the club and perhaps Naperville's greatest cheerleader ever.

Turning north onto Columbia Street, we reach Ogden Ave. On the northwest corner of Ogden and Columbia once stood the Wheel-O-Meal drive-in restaurant, whose sign encouraged drivers something like "Don't drive by angry, stop in and get fed up." Aside from the wheel (Rotary wheel) connection (it's weak, I know), undoubtedly many Rotarians would have stopped there for lunch on occasion, on any day but Thursday.

We go west on Ogden and turn left to go south on Washington Street. On the left is the former office of Wehrli World Travel, owned and operated by Sue Wehrli, sergeant-at-arms during Brand Bobosky's year as president. Sue was quite the memorable foil to Brand throughout the year! If my memory is correct, Sue now splits her time between Door County and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Across the street is the longtime headquarters of the Bank of Naperville, later Harris Bank Naperville, then BMO Harris Bank, and now just BMO. Ward Stearns, club president for 1986-1987, served as president of the Bank of Naperville, and Frank Slocumb, club president for 2012-2013, was president of Harris Bank Naperville. Other Rotarians who have worked there (and sorry, but I am sure this is not a complete list) include Ron Davidson (who I would still really like to have back in the club), Chris Michalski, Lee Spadoni (now Przybyla), Jane Keith (now Stearns) and Pat Benton (RCO Downtown, the 4:44 Club).

Before heading South of the tracks, we stop at Kendall Park, at the southeast corner of Washington Street and Fifth Avenue to enjoy our lunch from Wheel O-Meal as we watch the trains go by. Once our batteries are recharged, we'll tour more of the Rotary-related sites south of the tracks.

~To be continued in the next issue...

If you have any recollections of Naperville and our club's activities in and about town, please share them with me by email to john@knoblochlaw.com.



Rotary Celebrates

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday or club anniversary in January!

Birthdays

Deepika Barua	4 th
Ross Berkley	6 th
Kevin Dickson	1 st
Monica Katsigazi	1 st
John Lansing	15 th
Chris Phalon	16 th
Kim Spayer	2 nd
Prakash Tata	5 th

Anniversaries

Richard Costabile	January 1 st , 2023
Dave Della Terza	January 9 th , 2020
Keith Druek	January 19 th , 2012
Hossein Jamali	January 17 th , 2002
Alma Jones	January 3 rd , 2002
John Lansing	January 31 st , 2013
Pat Merryweather-Arges	January 3 rd , 2002



"The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."

Steve Jobs

We hope you enjoyed this edition of The Wheelhouse.

**Look out in your inbox on
February 5, 2024, for our next edition!**