

The
Rotary
Club of Naperville



Leadership Through
Community Service
Since 1941



THE WHEELHOUSE

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Naperville

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Keeping House

Catch Up on Our Meetings

Couldn't make a meeting? Here's what you missed. More like seconds than minutes!

Thursday February 9th

Today we celebrated last year's main fundraiser, the Holiday Parade of Lights. See The Hub for details.

Thursday February 16th

At today's Zoom meeting, Marion Shuck, VP of Governmental Relations and External Affairs for the Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network, spoke on the importance of organ and tissue donation. Kidney recipient Monica Fox discussed her life-saving transplant.

Thursday February 23rd

This evening we Raised the Bar at Go Brewing with Gospel music and soul food, the perfect way to celebrate Black History month. Thanks to Mikel Mays, a recent North Central graduate, the founder of Mays Music Center for Excellence, a nonprofit that provides affordable and accessible music lessons for all. His group, the Divine Gospel Choir, was heavenly!

Thursday March 2nd

At today's meeting we hosted a Women in Leadership Panel Moderated by Nicki Anderson, the Executive Director of University Advancement and LEADS Women's Undergraduate Leadership Program at Benedictine University. She is also serving Naperville as a City Councilwoman. The panelists were Diane Benck, General Operations Manager and Owner of West Side Tractor Sales Co.; Marlo Gaal, formerly of Ariel Investments and currently Chief People and Diversity Officer at Homeowners Service Group; and Terrie Simmons, President Illinois Minority Business Development Agency US Department of Commerce. The program explored the challenges, opportunities and impact of women in leadership.

Congratulations to returning new member Carol Simler.

Housework

Committee Updates

Our committee members are always working hard behind the scenes. Here's a peek at what some of them are currently doing.

International Service

- Help Babies Breathe is underway in conjunction with a Rotary club in Florida on site in Sierra Leone.
- Lighting and generators to power hospital surgical needs are in place in Ukraine.
- Pakistan has been devastated with flooding. Over 900,000 houses have been destroyed with 30 million people displaced. On February 1st, a presentation by RI was held regarding a Smart Village project to rebuild. It is likely our club will be helping with this.

Community Service

The committee is currently deciding on a project for Earth Day in April.



Pictures from our February 23 Raise the Bar

Window View

Here's what to look forward to at this month's meetings:

Thursday March 9th

12.15 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.

In person meeting at Meson Sabika

A very special day in our calendar – the COD Scholarships luncheon.

Thursday March 16th

12.15 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.

At today's Zoom meeting the guest speaker will be our very own Pat Merryweather-Arges.

Thursday March 23rd

5.30 p.m. Raise the Bar

Thursday March 30th

12.15 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. In person B to B vocational program.

What's Coming Up?



Pictures from our March 2 program

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

All Lit Up!

Our main fundraiser for 2022, The Holiday Parade of Lights, was a big success! At a special meeting on February 9th honoring our sponsors and recipients, Rich Tatara, Donna Malone and Laura Wrasman, who organized the event, had the pleasure of presenting checks totaling \$70,000.

Said Rich: "This is the second time we held the parade, and we are very, very happy at the success we have had. We had a modest turn out the first time, but this year's was more than double the previous year." (continued on the next page)



2023 Parade Beneficiaries

The Hub

News and Notables

More than 40 entrants took part, including 20 local non-profits. Recipients of the \$70,000 raised included the Alive Center, Naperville Police Foundation, Parents Advocating for Greater Enrichment of Students, and The Leadership Initiative. A special donation was made to the victims of the Highland Park shooting which devastated their parade on 4th of July. Going forward, we plan to keep the parade youth orientated, and hope to raise even more money this year.

The total raised was thanks to a matching grant from Naperville Rotary Charities. Special thanks to all our committee heads: Atul Akhand, Joe Brusseau, Hunter Byington, Maria Caselli, Kacie Chitwood, Jacque Clermont, Matt Doyle, Kathryn Hoffman, Bill Johnson, Alma Jones, Chetan Kale, John Knobloch, Dylan Ladd, Brian O'Malley, Curt Stowers and all the Rotarians they rallied to help them with their individual committees.



Bill and Trisha's Excellent Adventure

Rotarian Bill Johnson and his partner Trisha have always been active and interested in physical challenges, but now they're reaching for the heights! The couple, who have competed in the Chicago marathon, are now joining a group hiking up Mount Kilimanjaro.

Said Bill: "It sounded like a great adventure and a significant physical challenge in an exotic and beautiful part of the world."

But Bill didn't stop there. Not only is he preparing for the arduous climb at the end of May or early June, but he's also decided to turn it into a fundraiser for fellow Rotarian Brett Weiss's foundation that provides scholarships to children in Kenya.

If you'd like to help out, you can sponsor Bill [here](#).



Donate Blood In Memory of **Dave Wentz**



Dave was a dedicated Rotarian and community servant. He was a beloved member of The Rotary Club of Naperville. As a member of the club, Dave played an important role in building the relationship between the organization and the American Red Cross. He donated blood regularly and now the Rotary Club of Naperville invites you to give blood and help save lives in his memory.

The Rotary Club of Naperville Presents **The Dave Wentz Memorial Blood Drive**

Alfred Rubin Riverwalk Community Center
305 West Jackson Avenue
Naperville IL 60540

Monday, April 3, 2023
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code: Naperville Rotary)

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.

All presenting donors will receive a tshirt while supplies last.

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SCAN ME

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Small Cog in a Big Wheel

The Bigger Picture

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

When the world faces disasters like the devastating earthquake that killed tens of thousands of people in Turkey and Syria on February 6th, RI is always quick to respond.

President Jennifer Jones activated our disaster response efforts, communicated with the affected districts, and encouraged governors in those regions to apply for disaster response grants and share information about their relief efforts so that Rotary can amplify the calls for support. The Rotary Foundation Trustees decided that all donations made, from now until March 31st, to the Turkey/Syria Disaster Response Fund will be used to aid earthquake relief projects. In addition, the Trustees made available more than \$125,000 to Rotary districts affected by the earthquake through Disaster Response Grants. Rotary's project partner ShelterBox also has an emergency response team assessing the needs in the region and how it can respond. That team is communicating with Rotary district leaders. Rotary's service partner Habitat for Humanity International is also working on its response. Many Rotary members are asking how they can help. Here's how to have the greatest impact:

[Give to Turkey/Syria Disaster Response Fund](#). Donations help clubs and districts provide aid and support rebuilding efforts where the need is greatest. The funds are distributed to affected communities through disaster response grants. The Disaster Response Fund can accept cash contributions and District Designated Funds (DDF).

Checks should be made out to The Rotary Foundation and mailed to: The Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693. In the memo line, write Turkey/Syria Disaster Fund. Also include your Rotary ID number to ensure that your contribution will earn the appropriate points.

Locally, Rotarian Hossein Jamali and Meson Sabika are donating \$10,000 to UNICEF for Turkey and Syria earthquake victims -- and will match up to another \$10,000 raised. Please consider supporting this important humanitarian initiative [here](#).

In the House with Ross Berkley

Ross only joined our club in October last year, so we thought this was the perfect opportunity to introduce him to our members.

When did you join Rotary and who sponsored you?

Fall of 2022, Nancy Wiersum.

Why did you want to join?

Several colleagues and friends of mine are involved in Rotary, but I had never had the time flexibility to be a part of a Rotary club, so I primarily did volunteer work through church. I'm excited to find new opportunities to support my community and the Rotary was a natural fit!

How are you planning to get involved?

As an educator, advocating for access to high quality educational opportunities is something that I would like to do within the Rotary framework--be that through our Rotary scholarships, networking with fellow Rotarians, or supporting outreach programs.



What is your profession?

I am the President of the Naperville Unit Education Association, and work primarily in labor management.

Can you share any details about your family life and background?

I grew up in Dixon, IL and was a recipient of a Rotary scholarship. I was orphaned at 14, so the support from many of the Rotarians in my hometown really helped me achieve my goal of going to college. In fact, I was even employed by a Rotarian from age 16-21!

What hobbies do you enjoy?

I sang professionally (opera/oratorio) from 2002-2019, but after "retiring" I now enjoy attending classical concerts and have season tickets to the Chicago Lyric Opera and Chicago Symphony. I'm also a proud fan of the 2022 NCAA D3 Football Champions, The North Central College Cardinals!

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

Despite being an avid traveler, my biggest fear is flying! (I try to sit near the front of the plane--it seems to help.)

What do you enjoy most about Rotary?

Learning about the amazing experiences of my fellow Rotarians and learning from them (and our fabulous speakers)!



Rotary Celebrates

Birthdays

John Anderson	March 3
Paul Lehman	March 22
Jason Nagel	March 11
Sandra Price	March 25
Michael Raczak	March 26
Morris Westerhold	March 6

Anniversaries

Julie Berkowicz	March 16, 2017
John Gallagher	March 30, 2006
Roger Iliff	March 24, 2016
Chetan Kale	March 17, 2022
Dylan Ladd	March 17, 2022
Brien Nagle	March 1, 1983
Chuck Newman	March 2, 2006
John Norman	March 26, 2009
Ron Ory	March 12, 1998
Jo Raoul	March 17, 2005
Carl Schumann	March 1, 1982
Tom Turigliatto	March 28, 2013



We hope you enjoyed this edition of The Wheelhouse.

Look out in your inbox on May 1 for our next edition! (Combined April and May)