

Chuck Abell MPH SM B	Arthur Lewis PH SM
Dale Robertson Agosto PH SM	Bengt Lindell PH SM
Niki Arabia	Carolyn Louviere MPH SM
Karl Arceneaux PH SM	Emery Lyon MPH SM
Rick Arceneaux MPH SM	Roger Mallett PH SM
Jackie Balmer* PH SM	Mike Mills PH
Herschel Bourque MPH SM	Ronnie Petree MPH SM
Veronica Comeaux PH SM	John Pickle MPH SM
Bernadine Daboval* MPH SM	Clarence Prudhomme*
Pat Deshotel PH	PDG MPH SM
Steve Eastman PH SM	Richard Robertson MPH SM
Jared Fontenot PH SM	Emily Romero PH SM
Sam Fontenot MPH SM	Jacque Romero PH SM
Mary Gaudin PH SM	Troy Romero PH SM
Paul Guillory PH SM	Brant Smith SM
Arlene Heinen* MPH SM	Boyd Sockrider SM
Lauren Heinen PH SM	Kyle Todd* MPH SM
Becky Hudson* MPH SM B	Paul Trahan PH SM
Chris Humble PH	Fr. Alan Trouille MPH SM
Darlene Kyle* PH SM	Jessica N. Vonderstein PH SM
Tina Lawrence PH SM	Claude Watkins PH SM
Shelly Hay LeBlanc* MPH SM	Rev. Chan Willis* PH SM
Carolyn LeJeune MPH SM	Jim Wright* MPH SM

\* – Board of Directors      MPH – Multiple Paul Harris

SM – Sustaining Member      B – Benefactor

PH – Paul Harris

### Honorary Members

Chip Kyle PH	Kitty Prudhomme MPH
Ronnie Oustalet PH	Paul Savoit PH

## Make-ups

Club Members are encouraged to make up meetings at the above clubs, to promote fellowship and increase attendance. If you are traveling out of the area, ask JIM or BECKY to locate a club for you in your area of travel.

Rotary Club of Welsh website:  
[www.welshrotary.org](http://www.welshrotary.org)

# THE THRESHER

*The Rotary Club of Welsh Newsletter*  
 Established – June 5, 1936

March 2, 2023



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

**Rotary International President  
Jennifer Jones**

**District Governor  
Tim McNabb**

**2022-2023 Club Officers**

**President  
Arlene Heinen**

**President Elect  
Shelly Hay Leblanc**

**Secretary Treasurer  
Bernadine Daboval**

Today's Program  
**David Duplechain**  
 Family and Youth Counseling

# THE HARVEST

## Rotary Serves Youth with Peace Corps

### *The story of Wanzita*

Please make a point of showing up at 5PM for Literacy Night at the Welsh Elementary Cafeteria tonight. We will serve Pizza. The Board is planning another burger fund raiser for April 16, we will need all hands on deck. Our Crawfish social is April 27 at 5PM. Shelly will host us again. Please save the dates.

Again, the Jennings Daily News published a fine story about the additions to Cora Mae's shelter at the park.

Today we hear from David Duplechain about the services available through Family and Youth Counseling. With a fifty year history of service to southwest Louisiana, Family and Youth Counseling is a non-profit agency providing services and supports to youth experiencing mental health crises as well as issues dealing with pregnancy, court appointed special advocates, training for mental health professionals and a host of other services that David will tell us about.

Yesterday's annual legislative breakfast in Jennings featured our local legislative delegation (including Welsh Rotarian Troy Romero. Representative Romero and Senator Abraham provided an excellent summary of upcoming legislative agenda, including the Calcasieu bridge, planning for development along I-10, and support for local agriculture. Lots of us were there along with community leaders parishwide.

Growing up in a village near the shores of Lake Victoria in Tanzania, Wanzita Ally never seriously thought about getting on a plane and flying to America. Her father had died when she was young, and she lived with her mother and grandmother, who were poor farmers. The family depended on what they grew in their fields to eat. But Wanzita loved school, and she did well. She was chosen as a class leader by her fellow students, and her teachers noted that she showed "good effort, behavior, and attendance," despite going long periods without eating. She was determined not to let her family's situation interfere with her education.

Two decades earlier, in the early 1990s, a Peace Corps volunteer named Brian Singer was teaching mathematics at a high school near Wanzita's village when he got to know four siblings whose parents had died. After Singer returned home to Minnesota, he talked to family and friends about helping those students with their school fees. The response was so great that he sponsored additional kids, and Project Zawadi was born. To date, the nonprofit has sponsored some 650 students.

A few years ago, Project Zawadi began expanding its mission to help schools increase their educational reach, building classrooms and housing for teachers; installing toilets and computer labs; and setting up a vocational training center. One of the projects provided beds for a dormitory at Makongoro Secondary School, where Wanzita was a student. Wanzita herself received a school fee scholarship.

This kind of collaboration between Rotarians and former Peace Corps volunteers is one reason the two organizations formalized their relationship in 2014. Both groups share goals of promoting better international understanding, enhancing global awareness, and empowering communities to create lasting improvements in education, economic development, health, and more. "It's a really natural collaboration," says Singer. "It connects concerned and caring people – Rotarians – with people who have a specific connection to a village or a group of people."

Wanzita has embraced her experience – although when she got to Minnesota in the fall of 2016, she couldn't see how anyone found their home, because to her, they all looked the same. "I couldn't believe how many cars there were, and the way the roads were built over each other, and the buildings – how nicely they were built." At her high school, where she spent her senior year, she joined the cross-country team and signed up for an ambitious load of classes, including child psychology, accounting, and biology. Where that life will lead next, Wanzita isn't sure. She wants to continue her schooling in Tanzania. She had thought about becoming a nurse, but now that she has been out in the world, she is imagining other paths.

Excerpted from the RI Website