

# Rotary



# Club of Williamston Sunrise

## Club Leaders



[Laska J Creagh](#)  
President



[Christopher A. Lewis](#)  
President - Elect



[Gene Klco](#)  
Secretary  
Webmaster



[Steve Terry](#)  
Treasurer



[Earl K Wolf](#)  
President - Nominee



[James Conroy](#)  
Club Director



[Elgar Brown](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Wanda Bloomquist](#)  
iPast President

## Speakers

**September 27, 2022**

[Laska Creagh](#)

Meet at Tavern 109

**October 04, 2022**

[Tracy Purrenhage](#)

Statewide Recycling

## 9/20/22-Emily Sutton Smith

By Gene Klco on Wednesday, September 21, 2022

### General Discussion:

- Attendance: Members=17, Associate Members=1, Guests=2
- We met today at Simone's Williamston Wellness



- President Laska started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance
  - Raj gave a short blessing prayer for the work we do in the community

Guest speaker today was **Emily Sutton Smith** – with the Williamston Theatre

- The Williamston Theatre is starting its 16<sup>th</sup> season
- A capital campaign has them removing the structural poles near the stage
  - Structural steel is to be installed today to allow removal of the poles
- Emily then gave a brief synopsis of each of the season's plays
  - #1-The Magnolia Ballet
    - This a premiere showing – done across the nation
    - It is a co-production with Plowshares Theater in Detroit
    - It is a story of a Black teenager haunted by ghosts of racism
    - It is a Southern Gothic fable that blends high drama, dance & music
  - #2-A Very Williamston Christmas
    - This is a spoof on Holiday TV shows
    - Set in our local area
  - #3-Wild Horses
    - This is a Michigan premiere
    - The teenage girl takes us on a wild summer struggling for identity and independence
  - #4-Mrs. Harrison
    - At a 10 year college reunion, two ladies meet
    - One a black playwright, the other a while struggling stand-up comedian
    - Stuck together by a rain storm, they discuss their past and how they got there

- #5-Alabaster
  - A world premiere
  - Alice, a noted photographer, finds an undiscovered artist, June in a small town in Alabama
  - They form an artistic collaboration between them
  - They explore love, grief & longing in this bittersweet portrait
- #6-Be Here Now
  - Another Michigan premiere
  - A woman who lost her job and was angry & depressed
  - Then recurring headaches manifest bizarre, ecstatic, almost religious experiences that change her entire view of life
  - But they are caused by brain cancer
  - She must decide between a short life of joy or a long life of mediocrity
- Conversation Sundays
  - One Sunday of each performance, they will host a post show conversation
  - They bring together group of play people to talk to the patrons
- Giving Tuesday – November 29
  - Will have three different play readings
  - At 11 am, 3 pm & 7 pm
  - Free and open to the public
- Q/A:
  - How has attendance been?
    - It has not been a great year
    - Not recovering from the pandemic like many businesses
    - From 72% (pre-pandemic) to 54% seating capacity
    - Many older people come, but concerned about Covid spread
    - They have taken many precautions
      - Masks required by patrons
      - Actors, unmasked, are tested 3 x per week
    - Still it is a small space – in close quarters
  - Still working on the capital campaign efforts
    - Ex. removing the 2 posts by the stage
  - Where do patrons come from?
    - Most audiences from outside the area
      - 20% from Williamston
      - 40% from Lansing area
      - 40% from Livingston, Washtenaw, ... counties
  - All 4 founding members still there
    - Worked at Purple Rose in Chelsea
    - Were let go and decided to start theater in Williamston
    - Some area theaters have closed
      - Boarshead Theater in Lansing in 2009
      - Try to learn from them and not make the same mistakes
  - All 4 leaders are in their 50s
    - Looking for succession planning
    - Looking at the next generation of leaders to run it in the future
- After Emily's presentation, Laska presented her with a \$1000 check



Emily (masked) shown receiving a check from President Laska Creagh

- We thanked Emily as she left to attend to her children
- Laska told of their Road Scholarship trip in Canada they were just back from
  - They drove to Quebec, Canada
  - Biked hard for 4 days – 104 miles in southern Quebec and northern Vermont

- o Lots of hills
  - o With 21 people on the tour
- Golf Outing – Wanda
  - o 8 teams played – one Rotary team (with Satellite Club)
  - o \$4385 total - \$2011 in expenses + \$2347 net
    - To be split with the Tom Clay Scholarship & our Foundation
  - o Next year the outing is set for August 6, 2023
- Duck Race Finals – Steve
  - o \$5400 in sponsorships
  - o \$16,860 in ticket sales (some by Cub Scouts, Senior Center & Satellite Club)
  - o \$3750 in donated goods/services
  - o Minus expenses = \$20,500 net
  - o Laska & Narda have documented all the work to be done to run it
    - Jim Conroy has looked it over too
    - Will be available for future Duck Races
- Harvest 5K
  - o 39 Runners now
  - o \$1464 from 12 sponsors
    - Closing sponsorships today to get the list printed on the T-shirts
- Rockin' Rotary Raffle
  - o Laska & Wanda are not running it this year
  - o Need a committee to run the raffle
  - o Need 640 tickets sold
    - With 20 members selling at \$50/ticket, need average of 30 tickets sold per member
  - o If we don't get volunteers, we won't do it this year
    - Let Laska know if you want to help
  - o We raised \$17,500 last year
    - Made up for \$10,000 we used to raise from Poker
    - If don't do, will have less to use for grants
  - o Gene noted that he sold 56 tickets last year
    - Only 3 were to strangers
    - Most via email – just send out to friends, family & acquaintances
      - No pressure
  - o Need a theme
    - Suggested that Board decide the theme of the raffle
      - Like last year – Feeding Children's minds & bellies
- Happy Dollars
- Raj noted that the Rotary DEI (Diversity, Equality, Inclusion) group is having a Zoom meeting tonight
- Adopt a River – Sharon
  - o We have received a grant for kiosks for the river project
  - o Sharon has been working with the Satellite Club on this
  - o She passed out a handout at the meeting
    - It lays out some things that need to be done
      - Many not in the river
    - Please look it over and comment
    - Come next week with ideas/comments to talk about
  - o There will be signage at way points (at bridges saying what road going under, ...)
  - o MDOT & DNR looking into a launch site at Red Cedar Park (Gr. River near Meridian Rd)
  - o Looking for brains and bodies
- We closed with the 4-Way Test

## Special Event Calendar

By Gene Klco on Tuesday, April 19, 2022

# Williamston Sunrise Rotary

## 2022 Special Events

- April 30, 2022 – 500 Tree Planting at Township Park
- May 7, 2022 – Plant 85 larger trees from pots at Township Park
- June 20, 2022 - Citizen of the Year Dinner – Part of Red Cedar Jubilee
- June 27, 2022 – Duck Race
- September 2022 – Start of ticket sales for the Rockin' Rotary Raffle
- September 17, 2022 - Tom Clay Golf Outing at Wheatfield Valley Golf
- October 16, 2022 – Williamston Sunrise Rotary 5K Fun Run
- December 3, 2022 – Drawing of Winner of Rockin' Rotary Raffle at Williamston Light Parade

## Thought for the Week

By Gene Klco on Wednesday, July 13, 2022

*"Don't tell me the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon."*

## Joke of the Week

By Gene Klco on Friday, July 1, 2022

When a group of tourists visited a crocodile farm, the owner of the place launched a daring proposal; -Whoever dares to jump, swim to shore and survive, I will give 1 million dollars. Nobody dared to move, suddenly a man jumped into the water and desperately swam towards the shore while he was chased by all the crocodiles. With great luck he arrived, taking the admiration of everyone in the place, then the owner announced; -We have a brave winner. After collecting their reward, the couple returned to the hotel, upon arrival, the manager told him; he was very brave to jump, then the man said; -I didn't jump, someone pushed me! His wife smiled ... Moral: "Behind every successful man, there is a woman who pushes him."

## September Birthdays

By Gene Klco on Wednesday, August 31, 2022

Wishes for a Happy Birthday in **September** go out to:

**Mark Steinberg September 1**

**Janet Eyster September 14**

**Simone Ranes September 15**