



# The See-Way



# IMAGINE ROTARY

Club 5136, Organized in 1913    District 7280    July 7, 2022    Vol 2022 No. 24

## Guest Speaker

### Michael Fuhrman: Passenger Rail at the Dawn of Electric Cars: Can an improved passenger rail network boost Erie's economy?



Michael Fuhrman was born in Frankfurt, Germany, the son of a U.S. Army Master Sergeant. He relocated to his family's hometown of Erie at the age of seven, where he grew up in Marvintown at 27th and Parade Streets, going on to graduate from St. John's Baptist parochial school, Academy High School, and Mercyhurst University all on Erie's east side. An All-City linebacker on Mercyhurst's inaugural football team, Mr. Fuhrman graduated in 1985 with a B.A. in Dance (Ballet). He spent the next two and a half years working in Germany, touring throughout Europe before returning home as Lake Erie Ballet Company's first principal dancer. He earned a second degree in English from Mercyhurst and a Masters in Nonprofit

Administration from the University of Notre Dame. Previously, he has served as the Director of the 1995 Greater Erie Bicentennial, the founding Director of Mercyhurst University's Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, Project Manager for Destination Erie and co-founder of the Jefferson's Civic Leadership Academy. Michael has served on state and local boards for the past 25 years and is presently on the board of the Erie County Land Bank and Preservation Erie. Currently, he is the Executive Director of both All Aboard Erie and The Lakeshore Rail Alliance organizations that advocacy for faster and expanded railway networks connecting Erie to the metropolitan regions of Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Buffalo. He also is the chairman of the Three Forts of Presque Isle and Interpretive Center; a \$20 million heritage tourism project designed to reclaim Erie's early history and incentivize economic development in Erie's lower Eastside. He spends most of his time reading, writing, advocating, and lecturing on ways to mobilize projects for local economic and cultural development. He is an avid artisan bread baker. He is married to Tina (Kaliszak), and together they have two sons, Erich and Eliot.

### Changing of the Guard



Thank you to all who attended the Changing of the Guard on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Maureen Rizzo and the board are very eager to keep the momentum flowing. We look forward to your assistance and participation in our service projects this year and remain committed to providing valuable resources to our youth, schools and Rotary International.

**Maureen Rizzo**  
President-Elect

**Diane E. Chido**  
Past President

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**Geri Cicchetti**  
Vice President  
PR Committee Chair

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**Blane K. Dessy**  
Secretary

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**David Mahoney**  
Treasurer

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**Allison Keenan**  
Club Programs Chair

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**GREETER -**

**INVOCATION -**

**Please consider signing up to volunteer with fellow Rotarians at the Annual Pancake Breakfast!**

**Let Maureen Rizzo know if you are interested!!**

## Please RSVP!! Victorian Princess Social Gathering July 20<sup>th</sup>!!



Join us aboard the historic **Victorian Princess** paddle ship on Wednesday evening, July 20<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This is a wonderful way to meet up with new and old Rotarian friends as we enjoy a beautiful evening tour of our own Presque Isle Bay.

While Erie Rotarians' passage is covered by the Club, all guests or other members of the community interested in this exciting program are welcome to join us for \$30 per person. Please bring a guest or prospective Rotarians! Light snacks, water and soft drinks will be served, along with a cash bar.

Boarding begins at 5:30pm and we set sail promptly at 6:00, returning at 7:30.



### Service Opportunity: Red Ribbon Mentoring Chair Opening

Beginning July 1 in the new Rotary year, **Red Ribbon Coordinator Tatiana Bogatova** is ready to pass the torch after a very busy year matching new members to Rotary mentors. Please consider taking up this exciting position. It is a great way to learn more yourself about Rotary and our club's storied history, to better get to know our new club members and to become more involved with the club. Please let me know if you are interested in this leadership opportunity or in becoming a mentor [dchido@dcanalytics.net](mailto:dchido@dcanalytics.net).

We have a male exchange student from Italy will be coming to our District in the Fall that we are hoping to place. If you or anyone you know is available and interested, please contact our club's **Youth Exchange Program Chair Tatiana Bogatova** at: [tatiana.bogatova@foresighteval.com](mailto:tatiana.bogatova@foresighteval.com).



### Opportunity to Host Incoming Rotary Exchange Student

Hosting a student is the best kind of servant leadership and fulfills so much of what is Rotary. It would be wonderful to get back to supporting this important program Rotary offers the student and community. An outline of what this entails:

Opening your home from anywhere from 3 to 9 months (time can be split between host families) student must have own bed, but can share a room with same sex student, if necessary

Family with desire to learn about another culture/educate student on American culture

Background checks: Criminal Child Abuse FBI (If you have not lived in PA for min of 10 years). The District pays for these.

Currently, require COVID vaccinations.

If you want to learn more about this opportunity, go to [www.exchangestudent.org](http://www.exchangestudent.org) and click on the "host a student" tab. Rotary Exchange Students normally live with a host family for three months at a time, so we will need multiple hosts with far less than a year commitment.

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Please be sure to sign up for being a greeter or invocation! The sheets for the new year will be going around at the upcoming meetings. Thank you!