



The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

# eWheel

Your Rotary News  
Straight  
To Your Inbox

September 21, 2015

Where was everyone this week? The meeting seemed to be a smaller, yet more intimate, group than usual. It was suggested that everyone was outside on their lunch hour, basking in the sun and soaking up the rays before time runs out and we are faced with cooler weather in the upcoming months.

## BENTON HARBOR GIRLS ACADEMY



**Patricia Ann Quattrin Ph.D.** the Founder and Executive Director of Benton Harbor Girls Academy was the guest speaker at this weeks' Rotary Club meeting.

Growing up in Benton Harbor, Quattrin had noticed girls struggling in Benton Harbor throughout the 1970's-1990's. Many would become pregnant as young teens, continuing a cycle of low self-esteem, self-deprecation, lack of education and lack of self-confidence.

After graduating with a Ph.D from Notre Dame in a completely different course of study, Quattrin began to focus on the girls of Benton Harbor. In 2006, after visiting several schools with a mission to specifically help young people, she embarked on a journey to change her life and she opened the Benton Harbor

Girls School.

A mission statement was written, "The Benton Harbor Girls Association for Learning and Self-Esteem is dedicated to enhancing the educational opportunities for middle school girls from the inner-city Benton Harbor area.

BGALLS has become an essential educational option for young girls providing them with innovative education, individualized learning environment, committed and unprecedented personal guidance."

By ensuring safe, nurturing programs BHGALS works to empower our girls with the confidence, strength and critical thinking skills needed to reach their fullest potential when they enter the high school of their choice.

**Short Term** – BHGALS provided **summer** and **after school** enrichment programs for middle school girls in the Benton Harbor area. This is led by volunteers in the fields of education and business.

### **GIRLS DISCOVER PROGRAM**

With the help of numerous volunteers, BHGALS successfully held nine GIRLS DISCOVER programs, focusing on math, engineering and technology.



### **AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM-**

With the financial support of grants awarded for two years, 2008-09 and 2009-10, BHGALS also ran after school programs in which improvement in math and reading were the focus. In addition, girls learned computer skills, knitting, crocheting, ballet and cooking and attended plays and concerts.

### **LONG TERM GOAL – ALL GIRLS ACADEMY**

**ACADEMY** - In the fall of 2010, BHGALS opened an all-girls academy for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The purpose was to fully prepare girls, academically and socially to enter the High School of their choice. In 2015, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade was added.

**FACULTY** – Certified, creative and innovative, trained teachers meet the students at their level and provide a nurturing and responsible adult support system for each girl.

**CLASSROOM** – Working within the non-graded concept, classrooms have a maximum of 15 students per teacher. There are one to two teacher-aides in each classroom.

**FAMILY INVOLVEMENT** – Families of enrolled girls are expected to be actively involved in their girl's education and attend monthly family

gatherings.



It is our belief that the family unit is the first teacher and they must be an active, interested party to the continued growth in socialization and education.

- When Quattrin began this program, she had no idea where she was going to get the many resources she would need. In September of 2010, her higher power intervened and found Quattrin a home for her academy at the old St. John Building (built in 1915 and placed their as a permanent formerly the "The Loft"). The building was renovated for their use and included two classrooms and kitchen, an office, library, game room, remodeled bathrooms and kitchen and new flooring and carpeting in the entry. Unfortunately, they now need to move out of the building at the end of the 2016 school year.



## JOKE OF THE WEEK

While walking down the street one day a “Berrien County Judge” is tragically hit by a truck and dies. His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance. “Welcome to heaven,” says St. Peter. “Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a Judge around these parts, you see, so we are not sure what to do with you.”

“No problem, just let me in,” says the Judge. “Well, I’d like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we will do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity.” “Really, I have made up my mind. I want to be in heaven,” says the Judge. “I’m sorry, but we have our rules.”

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other attorneys and judges who had worked with him. Everyone is happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of others. They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster, caviar and champagne. Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly and nice guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it is time to go. Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises.....

The elevator goes up, up and up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him. “Now it is time to visit heaven.” So, 24 hours pass with the Judge joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and before he realizes it, St. Peter returns.

“Well, then, you’ve spent the day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity.” The Judge

reflects for a minute, then he answers: “Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell.” So, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down and down to hell.

Now the doors of the elevator open and he’s in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all of his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above. The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder.

“I don’t understand,” stammers the judge. “Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse and we ate lobster, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there is just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?”

The devil looks at him, smiles and says, “Yesterday, we were campaigning. Today, we voted.”

## ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS



Debra Trapikas brought Bruno Trapikas and Exchange Student Serra Lutzen

Barney Whittier brought his lovely wife of 55 years

Jackie Huie brought Corey and Linzey from Johnson-Rauhoff

Matt Hanley brought **Ricky Plangger**

Don’t forget to go online to dacDb and update your information. Also, make sure you fill out the forms on the tables for corrected information in our Membership Directory. If by chance you have forgotten your username or password, you can contact Debra Trapikas and she will provide you the information.

## 2015-16 Board of Directors

Mike McKinney, President  
Clay McCausland, President-Elect  
Steve Smith, President Nominee  
Bob Peirce, Secretary  
Steve Ross, Treasurer  
Maria Kibler, Past President  
Gyl Kasewurm, Director, Membership Chair  
Mary Spiegel, Director, Int'l Service Chair  
J.C. Anderson, Director  
Dwight Bowman, Director  
Gary Bruce, Director  
Wendy Edwards, Director  
Charles Jespersen, Director  
Lori Marciniak, Director  
Debra Trapikas, Director

## 2015-16 Committees

Club Service, Patti Kutz  
Sgt. At Arms, Mike Ahern  
Invocation, Dave Kirshenbaum  
Programs, Steve Smith  
50/50 Raffle, Rick Villa  
Music, Dennis Bowen/Allen Westmaas  
Community Service,  
SJBH Rotary Foundation, Jackie Huie  
Foundation Investments, Mike Cook  
Bell Ringing, Sean Ebbert  
Park Cleanup, Rick Villa  
Rural Ag Day, Art Cotter  
Law Day, Steve Smith  
Rotary Showcase, Emily Hosinski  
Vocational Service  
Track Meet, Randy Bettich  
Track Scholarship, Dennis Bowen  
Student Program, Jackie Huie  
RYLA, Lori Marciniak  
Youth Exchange,  
Essay Contest, Patti Kutz  
International Service, Mary Spiegel  
Bio-Sand Water Filter, Charles Jespersen  
RI Foundation, Tom Chapman  
Membership, Gyl Kasewurm  
Orientation, Lynn Kellogg/Christine  
Vanlandingham  
Diversity, Dwight Bowman  
New Member Mentoring

Communications: Debra Trapikas  
E-Wheel, Debra Trapikas and Emily Hosinski  
Directory, Chris Newland  
Photography, Erin Bradford  
Webmaster, Debra Trapikas

## FUTURE MEETINGS

August 17, Katie Montoya, Berrien County Land Bank  
Authority

August 24 John Proos, Legislative Update

August 31 Harlan Zick, Therapeutic Equestrian  
Center

September 7 – NO MEETING

## FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

ON the last Thursday of each month, a Board of  
Directors meeting is held at the Area Agency on  
Aging, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

## Serra Lutzen Leaves

## Friday for Poland

We will miss Serra at our meetings, but she will keep  
in touch monthly by sending us updates from Poland.  
Good luck, Serra!

## ICEBERGS

A short tutorial on Icebergs to satisfy your curiosity!  
Icebergs are pieces of ice that formed on land and float  
in an ocean or lake. Icebergs come in all shapes and  
sizes from ice-cube sized chunks to ice islands the size  
of a small country. The term “iceberg” refers to chunks  
of ice larger than 16 feet across. The North Atlantic  
and the cold waters surrounding Antarctica are home for  
most of the icebergs on Earth.

Icebergs are formed when chunks of ice calve, or break  
off from glaciers, ice shelves or a larger iceberg.  
Icebergs pose a danger to ships traversing the North

The IIP uses airplanes and radars to track icebergs that float into major shipping lanes. Satellite images are also used.

## PEOPLE ABOARD THE R.M.S. TITANIC



The Unsinkable Molly Brown, was with the party of 47 year old John Jacob Aster and his 18 year old wife. Molly Brown, born Margaret Tobin. Margaret grew up in a cottage just blocks from the Mississippi River, and attended the grammar school run by her aunt, Mary O'Leary. As a teenager she worked stripping tobacco leaves at Garth's Tobacco Company in Hannibal. She married James Joseph Brown, a miner in 1886 and he devised a timber-and-hay bale method to hold back the dolomite sand that had prevented them from reaching the gold at the lower depths of the mine. This invention brought new money to the couple and they became quite rich.

Molly was a lifelong advocate of human rights and was one of the first women in the United States to run for political office. She ran for the Senate eight years before women even had the right to vote. She helped many people aboard the Titanic and the Carpathian and she won the hearts of many people because of her graciousness. We don't have the time or the space to tell you more, but perhaps you might visit the library to find out more about this truly fascinating woman.

Benjamin Guggenheim and his mistress French singer Leontine Aubart were also aboard. Guggenheim was of Jewish ethnicity from Philadelphia PA. He was married to Florette Seligman and had three daughters, but he grew distant from his wife and built a home in Paris,

Ira Straus, the co-owner of Macy's Department Store and his wife, Rosalie, died on board the Titanic. Ida tried to get Rosalie on to a boat, but she refused because he would not board while there were women and children still on board. Rosalie was overheard to say to her husband, "We have lived together many years. Where you go, I go." Rosalie and Ida were last seen standing arm in arm on the deck. Ida's body was never found.



Dickinson Bishop was a wealthy young widower whose first wife had willed him a major share in the Round Oak Stove Company in Dowagiac, MI. He married Helen Walton of a well-to-do family from Sturgis, MI. They were returning from a four-month honeymoon trip to Egypt, Italy, France and Algiers, delaying their departure so they could return on the new Titanic. They were rescued in lifeboat #7. Ironically, Dickinson and Helen divorced in 1916. Helen died on March 14, 1916 and Dickinson remarried on March 14, 1916. The article announcing her death was front page news of the Dowagiac Daily News. The marriage of Dickinson to his third wife, Sydney Boyce of Chicago appeared on the very same page.

Nellie Becker and three of her children were returning from a missionary trip from India because her son Richard had fallen ill. They were headed to Benton Harbor for treatment. Her husband would join them the following year. 12 year old Ruth had become separated from her family when her mother had her go back to the cabin to get blankets. The family was able to board a lifeboat but Ruth was not allowed on. Her mother screamed at her to get on one and one of the crew threw her into lifeboat #13. The family survived, but there is a much greater story about Ruth and her family. Will you be following up?