



The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

# eWheel

Your Rotary News  
Straight  
To Your Inbox

September 21, 2015

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 because she believed that no middle-school girl should feel hopelessness or despair. But for many young girls in inner-city areas across America, their circumstances are pointing them to a life of defeat.

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.

BHGALS 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 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. At the academy, the school day begins at 8:00 am and ends at 6:00 pm. The girls prepare their meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner). Extracurricular activities are controlled by the faculty.

**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.



The family unit is considered the first teacher and 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, she found a home for her academy at the old St. John Building (built in 1915 and was the former “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 were told they need to move out by the end of 2015.

The good news is that they are looking forward to their new home which will be located on donated pieces of property at the intersection of Pearl, Broadway and Catalpa. Several modular units are also being donated to them from the Cook Nuclear Plant.

The All-Girls Academy can use your help. They are not state or federally funded. They subsist along on grants, donations, fundraisers and sponsorships. They are greatly in need of playground equipment. To find out more about this wonderful organization, call Dr. Quattrin at 269-925-9922.

As Oprah Winfrey said, "When you educate a girl, you change the world."



## VISITING ROTARIANS

**DAVE KRIEGER**

**Hi, Dave!**

## ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

**Jackie Huie brought Carol Sizer**

**Matt Hanley brought Matt Borre**

**Charles Jespersen brought Dick Wendt**

**John Berlin brought Elliott Berlin**



Dick Wendt gave \$80.00 for his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on September 22, 2015 at Benton Harbor Sanitorium.

Jim Turner mentioned the Benton Harbor Tigers football team had won their first two games. He then said they were losing their third game, but the rain came and cancelled the game. He gave \$2.00 was for the rain.

Jackie Huie gave \$3.00 in Happy Bucks for Maria Kibler, Mary Frey and Charles LaSata for the success of the Interact Club at Saint Joseph High School. When Interact was started by our club there were 5 schools involved with a total of 60 students. This year there are 90 kids alone at St. Joseph High School.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lori Marciniak is selling 50 District Foundation Raffle Tickets for \$20.00 each for the next two weeks at our club meeting. We get 20% for each \$20.00 sold that can be used on any youth services program. Also, there are \$5,000.00 in prizes to be given out to participants.

Club Board Meeting this Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. at the Area Agency on Aging. Board members should turn in any reports to Mike Kinney prior to the meeting.

## JOKE OF THE WEEK

Be sure and do NOT let Sally Ernst  
(Lakeshore Rotary) see this!

An airline captain was breaking in a new blonde stewardess. The route they were flying had a layover in another city. Upon their arrival, the captain showed the stewardess the best place for airline personnel to eat, shop and stay overnight.

The next morning, as the pilot was preparing the crew for the day's route, he noticed the new stewardess was missing. He knew which room she was in at the hotel and called her up wondering what happened. She answered the phone, crying, and said she couldn't get out of her room. "You can't get out of your room?" the captain asked, "Why not?"

The stewardess replied: "There are only three doors in here," she sobbed, "one is the bathroom, one is the closet, and one has a sign on it that says 'Do Not Disturb'"

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2015 IS  
MUSEUM DAY. Go to:**

**[www.Smithsonian.com](http://www.Smithsonian.com)  
for more information!**

## JOKE OF THE WEEK #2

A hillbilly family took a vacation to New York City. One day, the father took his son into a large building. They were amazed by everything they saw, especially the elevator at one end of the lobby. The boy asked, "What's this, Paw?"

The father responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life. I don't know what it is!"

While the boy and his father were watching in wide-eyed astonishment, an old lady in a wheelchair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched small circles of lights above the walls light up. They continued to watch the circles light up in the reverse direction. The walls opened again, and a voluptuous twenty-four-year old woman stepped out.

The father turned to his son and said, "Go get your maw!"

## FUTURE MEETINGS

September 28, 2015

**SASHA IANUSHKO**

St. Petersburg, Russia

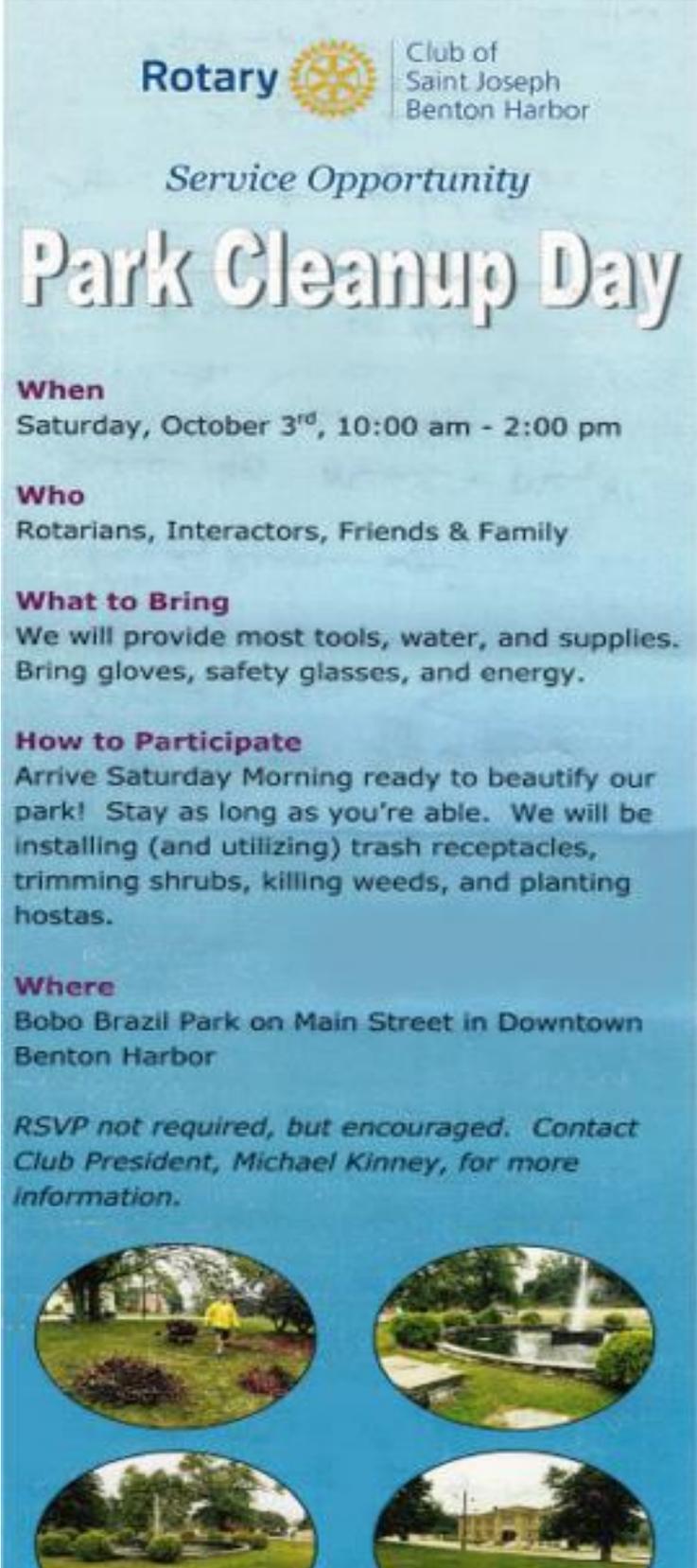
## 2015-16 Board of Directors

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, Debra Trapikas  
Essay Contest, Patti Kutz  
International Service, Mary Spiegel  
Bio-Sand Water Filter, Charles Jespersen  
RI Foundation, Tom Chapman  
Membership, Dwight Bowman  
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: OPEN  
Webmaster, Debra Trapikas



The flyer is for a "Park Cleanup Day" event. At the top left is the Rotary logo, a yellow gear with a blue center, and the text "Rotary" in blue. To its right is the text "Club of Saint Joseph Benton Harbor" in a smaller font. Below this is the phrase "Service Opportunity" in a blue, italicized font. The main title "Park Cleanup Day" is in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline. Below the title are four sections: "When" (Saturday, October 3rd, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm), "Who" (Rotarians, Interactors, Friends & Family), "What to Bring" (We will provide most tools, water, and supplies. Bring gloves, safety glasses, and energy.), and "How to Participate" (Arrive Saturday Morning ready to beautify our park! Stay as long as you're able. We will be installing (and utilizing) trash receptacles, trimming shrubs, killing weeds, and planting hostas.). The "Where" section is Bobo Brazil Park on Main Street in Downtown Benton Harbor. At the bottom, there is a note: "RSVP not required, but encouraged. Contact Club President, Michael Kinney, for more information." The bottom of the flyer features four circular images showing various park scenes: a person raking leaves, a fountain, a large tree, and a building.

**Rotary** Club of Saint Joseph Benton Harbor

*Service Opportunity*

# Park Cleanup Day

**When**  
Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Who**  
Rotarians, Interactors, Friends & Family

**What to Bring**  
We will provide most tools, water, and supplies. Bring gloves, safety glasses, and energy.

**How to Participate**  
Arrive Saturday Morning ready to beautify our park! Stay as long as you're able. We will be installing (and utilizing) trash receptacles, trimming shrubs, killing weeds, and planting hostas.

**Where**  
Bobo Brazil Park on Main Street in Downtown Benton Harbor

*RSVP not required, but encouraged. Contact Club President, Michael Kinney, for more information.*