



FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Happy Leap Day! Fun fact: the last time Leap Day fell on a Monday Rotary meeting date was back in 1982...that is, assuming they didn't have a snow day! And if your birthday is not on Leap Day, it cost you a \$1 fine thanks to our Sergeant-at-Arms.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COURT

Our guest speaker for the day was described by club president Mike Kinney as a winemaker, horse whisperer and former club president but most of us know him as Judge...Judge Charlie LaSata, that is. Judge LaSata's topic of the day was the Berrien County Drug Treatment Court and he educated us on what's happening in our community with heroin and other drugs and how we are treating the problem.

So, what's the problem? In 2009-2010, Michigan was among the top 10 states for illicit drug use for people age 26 and older. Approximately 10.37% of Michigan residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month which is substantially higher than the national average of 8.82%. Also above the national average is the rate of drug-induced deaths at 13.9 per 100,000 citizens. And most disturbing, the use of heroin is on the rise in our state with a full 30% of treatment admissions resulting from heroin addiction

and hospitalizations involving opioids has increased by 120% between 2000 and 2011.

An opiate is a narcotic substance which includes either natural or synthetic opium and is most often used to alleviate pain. Drugs containing natural or synthetic opium are only legally available by prescription but can be purchased illegally on the street. Common opioids include heroin, vicodin, morphine and codeine.

Judge LaSata was also quick to warn us of the dangers of marijuana. There's a trend toward the legalization of recreational marijuana and usually the first step in that direction is the legalization of medical marijuana which has been legal in Michigan since 2008. The substance itself has also been changing with botanical scientists now able to grow marijuana that is up to six times more potent than what was readily available in the 1980s.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 3/7 Meeting: John Hodgson, The Road to Lexington: The Start of the Revolutionary War
- ❖ 3/14 Meeting: Ag Day! Matt Gura and Brent Christensen, Hops: The New Ag Crop for SW Michigan
- ❖ 3/21 Meeting: Joel Gebbie, Delivering the Nuclear Promise
- ❖ 3/21: Interact Club Career Night at SJHS Student Center, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- ❖ 3/28 Meeting: Whitney Behnke, St. Joseph Today
- ❖ 4/13: Celebrate Rotary! 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Shadowland at Silver Beach
- ❖ 4/22 & 4/23: District Conference in Kalamazoo



The Four Way Test

of the things we think, say and do

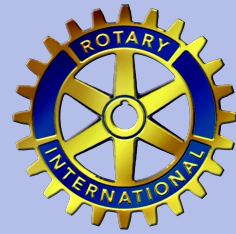
1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

JOKE OF THE WEEK

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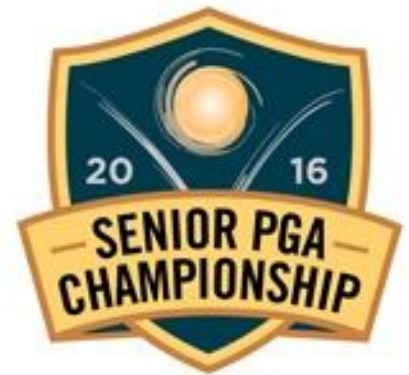


"My teacher says little girls can grow up to be anything they choose! Why did you choose to be an old lady?"



ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Elliott Berlin brought Lucas Berlin
Jackie Huie brought Don Johnson



PRESENTED BY
KitchenAid

PURCHASING SR. PGA TICKETS?

Consider [purchasing through St. Joseph High School](#). A portion of the sale will be donated and split between SJHS Key Club and Interact.

CELEBRATE ROTARY!

Join the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor for mingling and more!

Learn how our hearts and minds are working together to enhance health, empower youth and improve our community.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 • 5:00-7:00 PM • SHADOWLAND ON SILVER BEACH
FREE TO THE PUBLIC • HEAVY APPETIZERS • CASH BAR

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Rotary Club of
Saint Joseph
Benton Harbor

THANK YOU:

Aubrey Court Reporting
Banyon Investments, LLC.
Bill Marohn
Hilton Garden Inn
Honor Credit Union
Vail Rubber

SAVE THE DATE!

We'll be sending an email invitation soon that you can share with friends, family and community members. Be on the lookout as well for a Facebook event that can be shared. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

CAREER NIGHT

The Interact Club is hosting a Career Night at SJHS Student Center on Monday, March 21, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Business professionals are needed to sit at tables and be available for questions about their careers. Please contact Jackie Huie (jhuie@johnson-rauhoff.com) if you are able to volunteer your time and expertise. All career types are needed for this event.

ROTARY HERO NOMINATIONS WANTED!

- ❖ **What is a Rotary Hero?**
 - District 6360 is honoring *one current member* from each club at the District Conference.
- ❖ **Who would be a good Rotary Hero from your club?**
 - A current Rotarian that truly exemplifies “Service Above Self” in everything that they think, say and do or a long-time member that has given many years of service.
- ❖ **How will your Rotary Hero be honored?**
 - We will formally recognize the Heroes at the District Conference on Saturday, April 23 with a Heroes Program after dinner. We will also publish a special program that includes your Rotary Club Hero’s photo and brief bio.
- ❖ **How do I nominate a Rotary Hero?**
 - Submit your recommendation to Mike Kinney before 3/7 at kinneyma@gmail.com

ROTARY ABROAD



Our local St. Joseph student who is overseas as part of the Rotary Student Exchange program shared a photo with us this week. Serra Lutzen is in Poland and says the Warsaw Rotary Club “rocks.”

Our past Rotary Heros include Charles Jespersen (2010), Jack Porritt (2011), Jackie Huie (2012), Rick Villa (2013), Maria Kibler (2014) and Debra Trapikas (2015).

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COURT (CONTINUED)

The Berrien County Drug Treatment Court is one of our community’s “problem solving court solutions.” It was established in 2009 and currently has 27 people enrolled with 10 more pending referrals. The court partners with local service providers in an effort to rehabilitate felony offenders with severe substance abuse addictions as an alternative to incarceration. To date there have been 49 successful graduations with 7 more on pace to complete the program this summer.

This story isn’t just about facts, figures and statistics... it’s about people. Judge LaSata shared some of the personal lessons he’s learned through his involvement with the program. Addicts need our help and incarceration does not solve the problem. Addicts view the world differently with a loss of goals and no sense of what is generally considered “normal.” These are people we know, they are not bad people, they just need help.

And one of these people shared their heart-breaking story with us. Andrea had a relatively normal start. She attended private school. She had good intentions--she tried to be the kind of person who

would stand up for others. Small troubles soon accumulated though. She felt ostracized when her parents sued the school when she was not allowed to play on the soccer team because she’s a girl. She had a run in with the “mean girls” who accused her of making a bomb threat. She get in trouble for punching a boy for calling her stupid because of her dyslexia.

She admits that she made bad friend choices. In 8th grade she went out with friends and drank alcohol for the first time. She was assaulted by an older guy who was watching over her in exchange for a handful of pills. She fell in with a bad crowd and met people outside of her school. She started doing meth and crack.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF COURT (CONTINUED)

And then a “friend” introduced Andrea to heroin. This was one time she paused and was hesitant to cross over that threshold. Her friend told her that it would make her feel like she didn’t have a care in the world. Andrea already felt lost and devoid of life and she succumbed to the pressure. She shared that she wanted to just not feel anything.

While the heroin made her feel like her problems had melted away her life was actually spiraling out of control. She stole and did things she is not proud of in order to have money for drugs. She’s been robbed and she’s been beaten. And all of this happened in St. Joseph/Benton Harbor.

She’s been in rehab around 7 times but she’s not really sure because she’s lost count. After one trip to rehab, her father took her to the Upper Peninsula to go hunting. While they were away her boyfriend committed suicide. Had she not been away, she thinks she would have died too that weekend as this is something they discussed doing together. She stayed clean for a little while but soon enough she was back on alcohol and then back on the harder drugs.

She was arrested about a year ago for shoplifting at Kohl’s in Benton Harbor. She had drugs on her when she went to jail and another inmate ratted her out.

After time in rehab, she had the opportunity to go through the treatment plan with the Drug Treatment Court. But 4 months later, she relapsed and overdosed on drugs. She was somehow able to get her phone and call for help. She spent the next 15 days in jail and almost got kicked out of the program.

She managed to stay in and complete the program. Andrea says she believes there’s a reason for everything. There’s a reason she’s here and she believes it’s so others can learn from her mistakes. She shared that things do get better with the help of a higher power...and sometimes, that higher power is the court system at first.

I know I speak for all of us who were in attendance in saying that we hope Andrea has a very bright future in front of her and we are grateful that she was brave enough to share her story with us.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT (DTC) FACTS

- 38% of DTC participants to date claim heroin as a drug of choice.
- An additional 13% are addicted to “other opioids” - primarily prescription drugs.
- Two participants have passed away on the program due to heroin overdoses (2012).
- The average DTC participant began using drugs at age 16.
- DTC participants come from 13 different Berrien County zip codes including St. Joseph and Stevensville.

For more information or links to additional resources, visit <http://berriencounty.org/Courts/DrugCourt>.



WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE E-WHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Debra Trapikas, Jennifer Kirsch and Lisa Cripps-Downey. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write to emily_m_hosinski@whirlpool.com.

Connect with the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-
Benton Harbor
online at www.sjbhrotary.org



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