



APRIL 25, 2016

Our last meeting in April featured a pretty full house. I guess Rotarians heard that we had a “wild” meeting planned with special guests from Sarett Nature Center.

A WILD DAY AT ROTARY



Our guest speaker, Dianne Braybrook, has been with Sarett Nature Center for 34 years and has held the position of director for the last 2 years.

Her first friend was a little screech owl. At three years old, “Big Gray” is at full size. This owl came to Sarett when it was found when a tree was cut down. Big Gray’s foot was injured so it went to a licensed rehab. Because of the injury, Big Gray can’t grip fully with that foot and is unable to be released into the wild because he or she can’t hunt correctly. Screech owls come in red and gray and have a third eyelid that protects their eyes when flying.

Dianne shared that Sarett gets a lot of calls about wildlife that people find. Most of the time the

answer is just to leave it alone. A baby bird, for example, on the ground should be left alone because the parents won’t come if you’re hovering. It may just be learning to fly which often involves spending time on the ground.



Some amphibious friends were on site as well. Dianne brought a gray and a green tree frog. Gray frogs are native to this area but green frogs are not. The green frog came from a school who kept the frog for a while as part of a learning exercise.

Gray frogs prefer a moist environment and can often be found in the woods. The adults lay eggs in ponds and then leave.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 5/2 Meeting: Law Day! Andrea Lyon, Dean of the Valparaiso Law School, Miranda: More than just words (no need to RSVP but lunch will be \$15 that day)
- ❖ 5/6: Rotary Track Meet at Benton Harbor High School
- ❖ 5/9 Meeting: Jennifer Zimmerman, Junior Achievement
- ❖ 5/14: SWMSO Dancing with the Symphony Stars (featuring a few familiar faces)
- ❖ 5/16 Meeting: Track Meet Scholarships & Interact Student Officers
- ❖ 5/23 Meeting: Ric Pawloski, Mosaic CCDA
- ❖ 5/30: Memorial Day // NO MEETING
- ❖ 6/27: Installation Dinner at Hilton Garden Inn at 5:30 p.m. // NO AFTERNOON MEETING



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

NOT SURE IF BANANACONDA



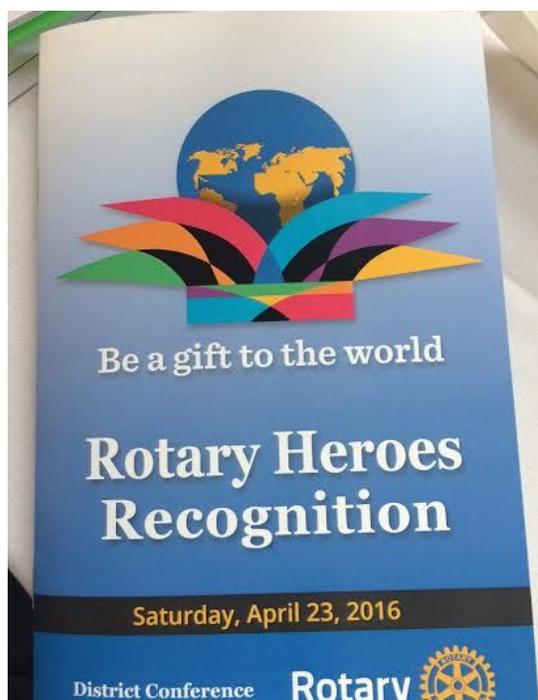
OR DEL MONTE PYTHON



ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

David Burghart brought Brandi Smith-Gordon
Jennifer Cole brought Chad Cole
Matt Hanley brought Stephen Townsend
Emily Hosinski brought Gretchen Arnt
Jackie Huie brought Don Johnson
Jim Turner brought Mayor Marcus
Muhammed and Todd Shurn

ROTARY HEROES HONORED AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Through his Dentistry Office he has been a major donor to our St Johns Community Spray Park Project once again showing his commitment to families in the area.
It is for these and many more that we select Nick as our "Rotary Hero".

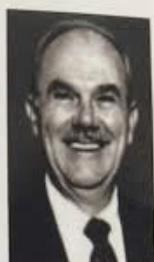
St. Joseph-Benton Harbor
Dennis Bowen and Allan Westmaas
- "Singing Duo"

The two have been our Music Duo for many years and without them our singing tradition would surely falter.

Allan is our energetic song leader. He was President of our club back in 1975, has served in many roles, and currently serves on our Foundation's Investment Advisory Committee.

Dennis is our pianist, has served in numerous positions, and currently chairs our Track Scholarship Selection Committee, which awards \$8,000 in college aid each year.

Both Dennis and Allan are Paul Harris Fellows.



Dennis Bowen Allan Westmaas

ANY EMPTY NESTERS OUT THERE?

Debra Trapikas took to the stage on behalf of Youth Exchange committee chair Jennifer Kirsch (who we hear is off getting married this weekend--congrats!) looking for house families. We have committed to bringing a girl to our community from Brazil BUT we need two house families to make up the year-long agreement (six months each). We need to set this placement very soon or we risk losing the opportunity to host this young lady. Please contact Debra Trapikas at tawana53@aol.com if you are able to help or if you would like more information.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Only a handful of people in our club know the extra effort and act of kindness that Sheriff Paul Bailey did for a St. Joseph High School student recently. Paul initiated a visit to the State of Michigan forensics Crime lab in Grand Rapids for Micheyla Jones. Paul had already arranged for Micheyla to meet with FBI agent Brown earlier this year and decided that Micheyla should be given an opportunity to visit the forensics lab. We should all be proud of what Sheriff Paul Bailey did and I bet he thought this was to remain unnoticed. Here is a great example of another Rotarian helping a student better understand a career, which is one of the main goals of our Student Mentoring Program.

CONGRATS TO JIM O'MALLEY!

Honor Flight is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing veterans with honor and closure through facilitation of visitation to Washington D.C. war memorials. Our own Jim O'Malley was selected to participate in the program and took flight over the weekend. About the experience, he shared "It sure as hell beat the first time I came home from Korea."



59th St. Joseph - Benton Harbor



Rotary Track Meet

It's almost time to run! The 59th running of the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Track Meet will be held on Friday, May 6 at the Benton Harbor High School.

We're happy to report that we have enough volunteers signed up to run the event--but if you're still interested, we can definitely put you to work. For those who have signed up to volunteer, those assignments have been made and you'll receive more specific instructions directly. Field events start at 5:00 p.m. so if you are volunteering in that area, please arrive by 4:30 p.m. Finals start at 6:00 p.m. All volunteers will be fed and participation counts as a meeting makeup.

If you have signed up to volunteer, please know that we are counting on you. If there is an emergency and you need to cancel, please make sure to call Randy at 269-876-7233.

This has also been a record year for advertising sales! A big thank you to all who are supporting the event as an organizer, volunteer, advertiser or spectator!



DANCIN' ROTARIANS!

The Dancing with the Symphony Stars smack talk has hit Rotary! We've got several Rotarians represented this year. Good luck to Whitney Behnke, Lisa Cripps-Downey and Randy Reimers!



PRESENTED BY
KitchenAid

PURCHASING TICKETS?

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

WILD DAY (CONTINUED)

Frog eggs are often food for fish and if they survive that stage and become frogs, they need to be careful to not become a meal for birds or snakes.

The biggest challenges facing amphibious life are polluted water and destruction of habitat. As a general rule, it's important that people look but do not touch. Things like sunscreen, lotion or hand sanitizer can be very harmful to frogs.



We also had a few turtle guests! The red-eared slider is not native to our area but can be found everywhere. These guys are often bought as pets but are then abandoned when they grow too large. The red-eared slider is a southern turtle and is not well-suited to our area. They can eat just about anything, including rodents.

The painted turtle is similar to the red-eared slider but is native and most common in our area. The painted turtle eats critters that live in the water and vegetation as well.

If you see a painted turtle attempting to cross the road, take caution, but if you are able to safely stop and help them across, please do so. Just make sure you put them in the direction they were heading. They are likely traveling to lay their eggs and will continue to attempt to take that path until successful.

The eastern box turtle was another one of Dianne's friends and this is an animal that's having a hard time right now. They are not technically endangered but



they are a species of concern. When an eastern box turtle is taken out of their home range, it damages their relationship to other turtles and their environment. Their future is significantly challenged by this habitat disruption.

This is a special time of year for Dianne's last guest of the day. This is the time of year when snakes are coming out of hibernation. Dianne brought a corn snake which, again, is not native to our area but prevalent in pet stores. And again, if you find outside, look but do not touch. Snakes are actually very fragile creatures.

The only venomous snake native to our region is the massasauga rattlesnake. There's a misconception that we have water moccasins in our area but this is actually the northern water snake who, although very cranky and will bite you, is not venomous.



The hob nose snake is also native to our area and will flare its neck out and "rattle" its tail...but he exclusively eats toads and is also not venomous.

The Sarett Nature Center currently has over 1,200 members and is often the top of the list when you search "what to do in Southwest Michigan" on the internet. Sarett also goes on school visits and entertains school field trips. Their current project involves working on new trails that would create a full 4-mile corridor.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Installation Dinner, where we induct our new officers will be held on Monday, June 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. There will be no noon meeting that day.

WHAT IS ROTARY?

We are 1.2 million neighbors, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world.

Our differing occupations, cultures, and countries give us a unique perspective. Our shared passion for service helps us accomplish the remarkable.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

Our distinct point of view and approach gives us unique advantages:

- We see differently: Our multidisciplinary perspective helps us see challenges in unique ways.
- We think differently: We apply leadership and expertise to social issues—and find unique solutions.
- We act responsibly: Our passion and perseverance create lasting change.
- We make a difference at home and around the world: Our members can be found in your community and across the globe.

HOW DO WE WORK?

Our impact starts with our members—people who work tirelessly with their clubs to solve some of our communities' toughest challenges. Their efforts are supported by Rotary International, our member association, and The Rotary Foundation, which turns generous donations into grants that fund the work of

our members and partners around the world. Rotary is led by our members—responsible leaders who help to carry forward our organization's mission and values in their elected roles.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

We've been making history and bringing our world closer together for over 100 years. Since forming in 1905, we've taken on some of the world's toughest challenges and helped a wide range of international and service organizations—from the UN to Easter Seals—get started.

[Learn about Rotary's history](#)

HOW DO WE USE OUR FUNDS?

Responsible leadership means more than just doing good work—it means making the most out of every donation we receive.

[See how we maximize our impact](#)

WHAT CAUSES DO WE SUPPORT?

We have identified specific causes to target to maximize our local and global impact. At the same time, we understand that each community has its own unique needs and concerns. Through our network of resources and partners, we help clubs focus their service efforts in promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies.

[Learn more about the service projects that support our causes](#)

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE E-WHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Debra Trapikas, Jennifer Kirsch, Lisa Cripps-Downey and Jim O'Malley. 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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