

## Miley's Musings

Some of our newer members may not have heard the story of Rotary's beginnings. The oldest of service clubs, it began in 1905 with four businessmen in Chicago, called together by Paul Harris, an attorney. After graduating from law school, Harris decided he wanted to see the world before hanging out his shingle, so for a year he traveled about, supporting himself by jobs ranging from hotel desk clerk to cement salesman to cowboy. Then he came to Chicago and started his practice.

His interest in learning about other forms of work led him to propose a club that would be composed of no more than one person per profession. His compatriots readily agreed, and so

weekly meetings were begun. They called it "Rotary" because they agreed to rotate meetings among each other's businesses, going to a different site each week. A wheel was chosen as the symbol, since the group was always on the move.

The idea caught on quickly and spread to other communities. In only nine years, a Rotary Club was established in Decatur, the 180th to be chartered. Today there are more than 13,000 clubs worldwide.

Next month, we'll see how Rotary became a "service club".

Yours in Rotary,  
Miley

### REMINDERS!

#### Important Dates

**NO Rotary Meeting**  
Memorial Day, May 31st.  
Have a wonderful Holiday!

## Membership Update - New Members & Applicants

It's always a pleasure to introduce new Rotary members and those interested in becoming a member. This month our club had the pleasure of welcoming four new members: Norma Maddio, Norm Willoughby, Michael Sexton and Dan Martini.

On April 12th Norma Maddio, owner of Alexan Chemicals Inc., sponsored by Kit Paulin and Norm Willoughby, new Executive

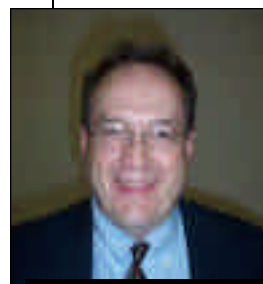
Director of Decatur Area Realtors, sponsored by Larry Harshbarger, became members. Michael Sexton, a Realtor with Brinkoetter and Assoc., sponsored by Tom Brinkoetter, and Dan Martini, Vice President at J.L. Hubbard Insurance and Bonds, sponsored by Jim Finn, became members April 19th.

Soon to be a new member is Christopher Woodrow of Mt. Zion Chiropractic.

Sexton & Martini



Norma Maddio



Norm Willoughby



## Excellence in Our Youth

The bar on academic and athletic excellence here in Decatur has been raised again. At our April 26th luncheon, two more outstanding high school students were honored for their achievements both in the classroom and on the playing field. From Eisenhower High School, seniors Britt Mason and Justin Baer received our

**Britt Mason**



April 2004 Scholar/Athlete Awards. This marks the final award for the 2003-2004 school year. The next award is in September.

Illinois Power, the Decatur Athletic Council and your Rotary Club jointly sponsor the Scholar/Athlete award. Each month two exceptional athletes who are also high scholastic achievers are chosen from one of the three Decatur high schools.

Britt is ranked number one of 204 in her high school, with a remarkable 5.0 grade point average. She's Treasurer of National Honor Society, a member of French Club, WYSE, Astronomy Club and FCA Valedictorian. Additionally, Britt's an Illinois State Scholar, Big 12 Conference Scholar Athlete, a Who's Who and Who's Who Sports Edition member, and finally is a Wendy's HS Heisman National Nominee.

Accomplished in softball, she achieved All-Macon County and All-Big 12 Conference status. Earning 4 varsity letters, Britt was selected to play with the McDonald's/Mitsubishi All-Stars in

**Justin Baer**



Hawaii. In Cross Country, she also earned 4 varsity letters, as well as VIP honors. Finally, Britt shines on the basketball court, too, earning the Hustle award and 2 varsity letters.

Her future plans are attending Western Illinois University on an athletic/academic scholarship, to major in Kinesiology.

Justin also excels in the classroom, earning a 4.731 gpa, which ranks him 12th in his class. His academic honors are also impressive. Among his many accomplishments Justin is a National Honor Society member, part of the ADM Job Program, named to Who's Who Among American HS Students all four years, an All-American Scholar, American Rhodes Scholar, National English Merit Award winner and a named to the United States Achievement Academy.

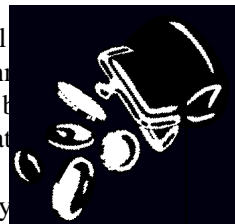
A gifted Cross Country and Track runner, Justin earned Most Valuable Award, Cross Country and the IHSAScholastic Achievement Award in '04, after being voted Most Improved Track & Cross Country the year before. He was named Big 12 All-Conference Team, and won the Big 12 Conference Scholar-Athlete Award. Justin was a State Qualifier Cross Country and named Who's Who in Sports. Justin accomplished this in three seasons, beginning his first year with no track experience at all.

As for his future plans, Justin will attend Millikin University this fall.

## Penny Fund

Each month a different local business is chosen to receive our Penny Fund. We support this fund by donating our spare change at our weekly meetings. To further grow this fund, every month we add the proceeds from Happy Bucks, where members pay a buck to share good news at our meetings.

\$192.64 was collected in April, and gifted to the American Heart Association.



YMCA Camp Sokia, a day camp program for 1st - 8th graders, will receive May donations. Camp runs May 24 - August 27, 2004. A very fun and active program, Associate Executive Director Jan Martin guarantees that kids will come home "dirty, tired and hungry" every night! Class size is limited to 200. Call Jan (872-3835, x 132) for more information. Please donate your change for the kids!

## Member *Rewarded by Rewarding Others*

We're excited to return, in a very small way, the appreciation of our Club to someone who's always an avid supporter and cheerleader for other people and their successes. Rotary Secretary Kit Paulin nabs May 2004 Member of the Month kudos.

A Rotary member since 1991, Kit currently serves as our Club Secretary. She also chairs the Recognition Committee, a natural fit for her as she proudly supports Decatur and all its residents.

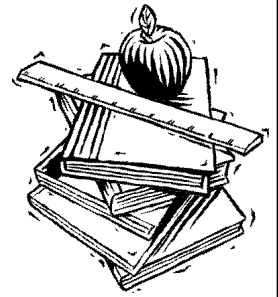
Recently appointed Branch Manager at A.G. Edwards, Paulin has been a financial consultant for the last 10 years. She grew up in Maroa, and is a product of

the Maroa-Forsyth school system and a graduate of the University of Illinois.

She and husband Pete, who recently joined forces together at A.G. Edwards, have two "magnificent sons." Prescott is a freshman at SIU-Carbondale, and Parker is a junior at Fountain Valley School of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

Kit states, "I absolutely love life in Decatur. It's so easy to live here." As the weather warms, Kit is "anxiously awaiting" another fabulous boating season on beautiful Lake Decatur.

Please make a point of saying hello to one of Decatur's and Rotary Club's biggest fans, Kit Paulin.



## The Gift of Reading

In tribute to our weekly speakers, every month we gift a book to an elementary school.

Argenta-Oreana Grade School received a \$60 gift this month to purchase library books. Next month's Speakers' Honorarium goes to Baum Grade School.

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## Committee *Recognizing Members and Their Contributions*

This month the Recognition Committee, chaired by Kit Paulin, basks in our Profile spotlight. In any organization, recognizing hard work and dedication is absolutely necessary, and is a vitally important function.

Our Club is no different, and this is the purpose of the Recognition Committee, who quarterly honors a member with the Distinguished Rotarian Award. This

award has a dual purpose. It's designed to honor and thank members who, for many years, have been both an active and committed member of Rotary.

And it's also an opportunity for newer members to become familiar with those who've so greatly contributed to the success and vitality of our outstanding Club. The next Distinguished Rotarian Award ceremony will be on May 10th.

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## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Union Planters Bank has generously agreed to sponsor a billboard to celebrate Rotary Club of Decatur's 90th Anniversary. It is the Board's wish to be able to display five or six such commemorative billboards, so any sponsorship is much needed and appreciated.

If you're interested in helping recognize our Club in such a positive way, please contact Miley Palmer or any Board member.

Thank you in advance for helping us to celebrate our 90th birthday!

## Save The Date

### May 10, 2004

Meeting Location: The Decatur Club is closed the day after Mother's Day. Our meeting will be held at St. Mary's Hospital in the Forum.

Dr. Jennison, a cardio-thoracic surgeon at St. Mary's, will present a program on his work in restoring and improving the "heart-health" of his patients.

### May 17, 2004

Tom Smith, Executive Director of the Decatur Housing Authority, will present an overview of the Wabash Crossing

Project. His presentation will include its history, progress to date and vision for completion.

### May 24, 2004

Isabella Hamdan is this year's Rotary Exchange student. She will join us to share her experiences in Illinois this past academic year.

### May 31, 2004

Happy Memorial Day. There is NO Rotary meeting. See you next week.

## Rotary Member Responsibility

Foundation Committee Chair Lucy Murphy, who's also a member of the District Foundation Committee, reports that the goal of Rotary International is to have each member of Rotary contribute \$100 per year to the Annual Fund by 2005. Rotary Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational and cultural exchange programs.

As reported in the March 2004

Newsletter, sustaining donations added to your quarterly Rotary Club dues bill is a very easy and convenient method to achieve this goal. As an added bonus, when your total contribution reaches \$1,000 you become a Paul Harris Fellow.

The Foundation Committee is diligently working with the Board to grow this program through increased Club Membership participation. For more information, or to sign up for this wonderful program, please call either Lucy Murphy or Bob Lloyd.

## Officers

Miley Palmer – President  
Stu Ellis – President-Elect  
Kit Paulin – Secretary  
Heather Stoa – Treasurer  
Daryl Sieplinga – Immediate Past President

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