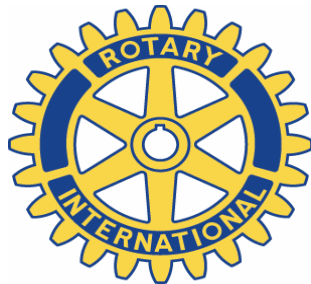


THE SPARK PLUG

Rotary Club of Decatur #180
March 2008

PO Box 131
Decatur, Illinois 62525

www.decaturre Rotary.org



A Message from the President

Greetings Fellow Rotarians!

Rotary district governor Dick Wagner often mentions that we need to be sure that we are having fun at our weekly Rotary meetings. I try to encourage that by using humorous quotations, occasional jokes, and my famous quizzes that members sometimes figure out the right answers to, and sometimes don't! Our Do Good Dollars announcements that members make are often light-hearted, also.

At our meeting on February 25, Bruce Nims arranged for several of our club members to entertain us with their talents. It was fun and a nice change of pace from our normal speaker routine.

So in harmony with that, I thought I would "entertain" you with my article this month. If someone asked you, "what is the most unusual or unique thing that you have experienced" how would you answer that? Here is my answer:

My wife and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in 2004 by taking a cruise through the western Caribbean. One of our ports of call was the island of Roatan, off the coast of Honduras. For our shore trip, we scheduled ourselves on a snorkeling trip where gorgeous coral reefs and lots of colorful fish were promised.

As we got off the bus at the beach, there was a native who had a little monkey on a leash sitting on his shoulder. For a couple of bucks, the guy would have the monkey jump over to your shoulder which then made a great photo op. I watched several people do this. When my turn came, I motioned to the guy (he spoke no English and I spoke no Spanish) to have the monkey jump to my shoulder. However, the monkey jumped down to the ground. When I looked at the guy, he made a motion like I should assist the monkey from the ground to my shoulder.

I reached down, took the monkey's paw and suddenly things went crazy. I don't know if I squeezed his paw too hard, whether he didn't like me, or something else, but he shot up my arm to my shoulder and bit me squarely on the side of my face. Blood was running while I tried to ask if the monkey had been vaccinated. Again, as I spoke no Spanish and he spoke no English, there was a severe lack of communication.

My wife did get a picture during the action. I found someone with a first aid kit to put a big Band-Aid on my face and we went ahead and snorkeled. I decided to have the ship's doctor take a look at the wound when we returned to

the boat. Both he and the nurse got a good chuckle out of it, saying, "We don't get many patients with monkey bites". He decided no treatment was necessary beyond a tetanus shot, but he did note that if it had been a wild monkey, he would have been more concerned.

As we returned from our trip, I seemed to suffer no ill effects; however, I do continue to have this craving for bananas!

In service,

Steve Farrow

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

March Programs

Invite a friend or co-worker to join you for these outstanding presentations.

All meetings begin at 12:10

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 3 | Connie Beck of Millikin University's Center for Entrepreneurship will discuss their WISE program – Women Innovating Successful Entrepreneurships. |
| March 10 | Daylyn Wells of City Centre Decatur will update our club on exciting things happening downtown. |
| March 17 | Brad Wike will share his positive experiences on becoming involved in our community. |
| March 24 | We will meet at ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL in the Forum to hear a presentation from our own Kevin Kast, Administrator & Executive Vice-President, about the hospital's vision to improve healthcare. |
| March 31 | Carolyn Ridenour, Chair of the Chamber's Business Expo, will give us a preview of what we will experience at the Civic Center on Wednesday, April 2nd. |



Kudos for Weekly Service to Our Club



Thank you to **Dick Shelby**, **Miley Palmer**, **Kim Bauer** and **Mary Ann Koucky** for beginning our meetings with thoughtful invocations; to Sergeants-at-Arms **Bud Wilcox**, **David Goebel**, **Howard Edwards** and **Dick Shelby** for introducing visitors and collecting Do Good Dollars; to our greeters **Kemper Willcut**, **Erin Brownlow**, **Glenda Williamson** and **Jane Shade** for making everyone feel welcome; to **David Coopriker** for leading us in our opening song; to **Tony Wilkins** for introducing the scholar-athletes, their parents and school officials; to **Erin Brownlow** for helping us wish Rotarians born in February Happy Birthday and to **Lora Dills** for providing Macon Ice Cream for the birthday table celebration; to **Dave Moran**, **Paul Stanzione** and **Jane Shade** for presenting grant checks, and to **Talent Scout Bruce Nims** for lining up a terrific group of Rotarians for the February 25th program.

March Birthdays

The birthday flower for the month of March is the daffodil or jonquil. With the long winter that we have had, William Wadsworth's 1804 poem offers a welcome respite.

Daffodils

I WANDER'D lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretch'd in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.



Happy Birthday March Rotarians. We wish you hearts full of pleasure and bouquets of daffodils.

3/1 Trent Thompson
3/4 Harry Cook
3/8 Jack Dolan
3/12 Mike DelSignore
3/18 Dick Cain
3/19 Dick Shelby
3/20 Miley Palmer
3/21 Jason Tompkins
3/24 Jim Masey
3/31 Stu Ellis
3/31 Phil Zeni

A Great Reason to Celebrate - Rotary Membership Anniversary Dates

Celebrating membership anniversaries in February are:

Rotarians	Number of Years in Rotary
Jon French	37
Rich Smith	9
Jeff Stout	6
Mike DelSignore	5
Kim Bauer	1
Howard Edwards	1
Norma Quihuis	1



Rotary Club of Decatur is happy to have each of these terrific Rotarians as a member, and we look forward to seeing them every week for many more years to come.



March Speakers' Honorarium – Doing our Part for Literacy

Each month, Rotary Club of Decatur donates funds in honor of our speakers to a Decatur or Macon County elementary school library for the purchase of new books. The March donation will be sent to **Garfield Montessori School**.

Membership Updates

Our club welcomed Julie Moore as a returning member on February 4th. Julie is the new Director of Community and Government Relations for Decatur Memorial Hospital. She is married to Doug Wolfe and is mom to three. She enjoys scrapbooking, cooking and watching her kids participate in sports. Julie was sponsored for membership by Heather Stoa.



Candace Poe, owner of Freedom Medical Supply Company joined our club on February 18th. With a father and brother who are Rotarians and a daughter who was a high school Rotary exchange student in France, Candace is very familiar with Rotary. She and her husband Mike, have three grown children. Candace was sponsored for membership by Michael DelSignore.

The board accepted with regret the resignation of Tina Noland. Rotary Club of Decatur currently has 122 members including two honorary members.

District 6490 Newsletter Available On-line

The latest district newsletter has been published on the District 6490 Web site. You may read it on-line by visiting:

<http://www.Rotary6490.org/Newsletter.cfm>

March Do Good Dollars

This month **Do Good Dollars** will be given to Johns Hill School for Johns Hill for their global education field trips to the St. Louis Art Museum, City Museum, Forest Park and the Zoo.



Donation for Repairs to be Sent to Amor Y Vida

Following reports to the club and the board by Heather Stoa and Al Luchetti on their recent trip to Amor Y Vida Orphanage in Mérida, Mexico, the board approved sending \$3000 to the home for needed repairs to bathrooms and windows.



Termite and weather damaged windows



Tile work, re-hanging shower doors, and replacing toilet seats and flush valves are among the many repairs needed to the bathrooms



Upon arriving at the orphanage, we were greeted by the youngest children. Heidi and Alex and four year old twins Alex and Joshua, had just returned from pre-school. Three year olds Michelle and Mauricio were playing with two-year old Dulce and her baby brother Carlos.

Mauricio, Dulce and Carlos were staying at the orphanage with their mothers. The women had been in abusive relationships and were staying at the home until they could locate work and provide a more stable environment for their children. While at Amor Y Vida, the mothers care for their children and help with meals and cleaning.

L-R Back row: Joshua, Carlos, Heidi
Front: Alex, Mauricio, Michelle, Dulce, Alex

The older girls have been learning English from Felisa Camara, the daughter of an Amor Y Vida board member Lucy Barragán. When the children learned that we were coming to visit, they wrote a poem and recited it for us.

*Thank you for the kitchen.
You didn't have to do it.
We are glad Rotarians like you
Could help us to renew the kitchen
We will always think of you
With glad and grateful hearts
You are very special
We knew it from the start
God bless you.*

Lucia, a young girl from Chiapas, was lured to Mérida with the promise of being able to earn \$700 a month for the bracelets she makes. She was dropped off and abandoned in the central park, but fortunately a woman noticed her all alone in the evening and took her home for the night, fed her and contacted authorities in the morning. She was then taken to Amor Y Vida. Her mother is dead and her father and brother live in the streets. Authorities have not yet decided if she will be returned to her father or if she will reside at Amor Y Vida for another two years.



Lucia presented Al and Heather with the bracelets. Each knotted thread bracelet takes about two hours to make and sells on the streets for approximately 10 pesos (\$1.00). The bracelets are available at meetings through a silent auction until the end of the month. The minimum bid is \$3. Proceeds from the auction will be sent to Amor Y Vida.

February Scholar-Athletes



Scholar-Athletes honored in February were seniors Sarah Zubair and Conor McElroy from St. Teresa High School.

Sarah is the daughter of Amina Zubair. She ranks 11th in her class and has a 4.18 GPA. While in high school, Sarah has played volleyball, basketball and soccer. She was on the varsity volleyball her junior and senior years and was awarded JV Defensive Player of the Year in her freshman and sophomore years. She played varsity basketball and served as team captain all four years and was named to the Area Basketball Leaders List for Girls 3-pointers for the 2007 season. Sarah also played varsity soccer and served as team captain all four years. She won Rookie of the Year her freshman year.

In addition to sports, Sarah has served on the Executive Board of Student Council and was president of S.A.D.D. She is a member of National Honor Society and LIFESAVERS and participated in the Youth Leadership Institute her junior year. She plans to attend the University of Illinois next fall.

Conor McElroy is the son of Tim and Leslie McElroy. He ranks 14th in his class and has 4.12 GPA. Coner played football for St. Teresa and received the Most Improved Player in 2007. Head football coach Scott Davis notes that Conor is a student/athlete who always gives 110% on the field and in the classroom. He is an excellent role model for younger students.

Coner has been a member of National Honor Society, S.A.D.D., the chess club and drama club while at St. Teresa. He remains undecided on his choice of colleges at this time.

Condolences

Our sympathy is extended to Rotarian Miley Palmer, and his wife Janet, on the death of their granddaughter Ryanne Mace, one of the five students killed at Northern Illinois University on February 14th. Ryanne, daughter of Mary Kay and Eric Mace of Carpentersville was an honors student and a sophomore psychology major.



Paul Luedtke, District Governor in 1993-94 and again in 2003-04, died on March 1st, at his home in Urbana from cancer. He is survived by his wife Mary Ann and three children, including Mahomet Rotarian Eric Luedtke. Rotarians wishing to express their condolences may sign the guest book at: <http://www.legacy.com/NEWS-GAZETTE/Obituaries>

RYLA Applications Due



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

District 6490 Dates for 2008 RYLA camps

April 18 - 20 -- Junior and Senior Camp

May 2 - 4 -- Sophomore Camp

Application Deadline is Friday, March 7, 2008

The Macon County Rotary Clubs: Rotary Club of Decatur #180, Forsyth Sunrise Rotary Club, Decatur Metro Rotary Club, and the Blue Mound Rotary Club are once again sponsoring sophomore students for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). If you are aware of sophomores who would benefit from and enjoy RYLA, please encourage them to apply.

Students who have demonstrated leadership or exhibit leadership potential are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on-line on the District 6490 website or from a school counselor. A parent and the principal must sign the application. Upon completion of the application, a committee with representatives from each of the clubs will review the applications and telephone or personal interviews may be requested. A student who is selected is expected to participate in the RYLA leadership camp at the 4-H Memorial Camp, Allerton Park, in Monticello for a weekend (Friday and Saturday nights) in April or May of his or her sophomore, junior and senior years in high school.

Students should return the forms by March 7th to:

Erin M. Brownlow
Busey Bank
130 North Water Street
Decatur, IL 62523
p 217.425.8243
f 217.425.8366
erin.brownlow@busey.com

For past issues of *The Spark Plug*, to read board minutes, to consult the board manual and club by-laws, or to look up member contact information, visit our Web site at www.decaturotary.org
