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# THE SPARKPLUG

Rotary Club of Decatur #180  
May, 2007

[www.decaturreotary.org](http://www.decaturreotary.org)

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## A Message from the President

Greetings Fellow Rotarians,

On a snowy February evening, my husband and I attended the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for the Champaign Rotary Club. It was a lovely event with Rotarians from many clubs in our District gathering to toast the Champaign Club and to hear incoming Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson give the keynote address. During the program, the club inducted six new Paul Harris Fellows. They chronicled their current activities and service projects. One of the most impressive aspects of their club is the annual level of giving. The Champaign Club gave \$200,000 in contributions to local and international projects this year! Granted, they are the largest club in our District, but they are still way above the rest of us in supporting Rotary causes.

The basis for the Champaign Club's philanthropic contributions is multifaceted. First, their members make an ongoing personal commitment to support The Rotary Foundation by participating in *Every Rotarian, Every Year* at the \$100 a year level. Second, a substantial portion of their funding is interest income from a club endowment fund which began with a sizeable gift from an estate in 2001. Third, the club holds a triennial auction to raise money for service projects.

As president, one of my primary goals this year has been for each of us to make a personal ongoing commitment to give to The Rotary Foundation. The impact of The Rotary Foundation is amazing. Individually, each of us can help others on a small scale, but collectively as Rotarians, we make an incredible difference. To be a part of the campaign to eradicate polio from this earth is one of the most laudable actions of any organization ever established. I remember the sadness and fear I felt as a young child for my friend across the street who was stricken with polio and was no longer able to play or attend school, and I remember my family joining hundreds of others as we lined up at the local elementary school to receive the first polio vaccines. While the PolioPlus campaign is the largest initiative funded by The Rotary Foundation, it also makes lives better by supporting worthy club projects. Our club was able to partner with a Mérida, Mexico Rotary club in 1994 and purchase a van for Amor Y Vida Orphanage; we will be applying for a grant in the upcoming year to purchase cataract and glaucoma equipment for an eye clinic in India – projects we would be unable to fund on our own. **To reach the *Every Rotarian, Every Year* level, all each of us needs to give is 27 cents a day – one quarter and two pennies!** I have been pleased with the response from our membership, but we can do better. Please, please, please make a contribution to The Rotary Foundation.

Our board has committed to building our local Rotary Endowment Fund through the Community Foundation to the point where we can begin to use interest income as a source for local grants. Our grant monies currently come from

meal surplus funds. Each Rotarian is charged for lunch regardless of attendance. This presents a double edged sword for us; we prefer your attendance, but we make money when you are not here. This policy negates your presence, but if we, as a club, are not willing to hold fundraisers that net \$25,000 each year, we cannot emphasize good attendance. The time has come for us to look seriously at our grant funding and attendance policy. Our club will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1915, and we have set a goal of moving from meal surplus to interest income as the source for giving by the time we reach 100. In addition to giving the November Do Good Dollars to The Rotary Endowment through the Community Foundation each year, we have also committed to honoring the memory of our deceased members with contributions. Our board is transferring funds from a CD to the Rotary Endowment Fund as a legacy to the contributions of Stu Black, Bill Shade, Jane Hawkins, Jackson Owens and Bob Lloyd. We encourage each of you to make contributions to the Rotary Endowment Fund in their memory or in honor or memory of those who are important to you.

I believe strongly in the humanitarian work of Rotary, and I know that as Rotarians, you, too, are committed to assisting others. In order to bring clean water to millions, to eliminate disease and to educate future generations, each of us must give of our time and our dollars. Please do what you can to help.

In Service,  
*Heather Stoa*

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"It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness." Chinese Proverb

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## May Programs

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

May 7 Phil Zeni will share his experience as CEO of The NEXT LEVEL Management Consultants who furnish services in marketing, international business development, corporate renewals, and mergers & acquisitions. Also a writer and educator, he is presently co-authoring an oversized coffee table book about residential design and construction.

May 14 **MEETING WILL BE HELD AT ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL FORUM**  
We will hear a presentation from our own Kevin Kast, Administrator and Executive Vice-President, about the hospital's vision to improve healthcare.

May 21 Millikin University's 13th President, Doug Zemke, will update us on the university's goals and accomplishments, in particular expanding its international offerings and relationships abroad.

May 28 **NO MEETING – Memorial Day**



### Smile!

Glen Dalluge is taking photos for our on-line directory. If you do not have a photo, please see Glen before or after the meeting. Or if you have a photo that you would like to have used, please give it to Heather Stoa or e-mail it to her at: [hhstoa@gmail.com](mailto:hhstoa@gmail.com). She will scan photos and return them to you.

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## May Birthdays

The luckiest people in the world are born in May. The unluckiest, or at least the people with the most negative view of their lives, are born in October. That's the word from researchers at the University of Hertfordshire in the UK reported the BBC News Online.

Half the people who were born in May considered themselves lucky, while this figure dropped to 43 percent for those with October birthdays. There was also a clear divide between seasons. People born from March to August considered themselves to be luckier than those born from September to February.

What does birth month have to do with luck? Researcher Richard Wiseman speculates that people born in the spring and summer are exposed from birth to the warm, sunny summer months, while those born in the fall and winter are first exposed to cold, cloudy days. Wiseman's fellow researcher, Jayanti Chotai of Umea University in Sweden, has previously shown that people who are born in the winter are less likely to seek out novel experiences. "The environmental factors around the birth period, like exposure to sunshine and temperature, could all influence the body's biological systems, with effects extending into adulthood."

"The good news for winter-borns is that people can improve their luck by being more optimistic and making the most of the opportunities that come their way," said Wiseman. The reality is that being lucky may be nothing more than having a sunny, optimistic outlook.

Happy Birthday to our own lucky Rotarians!

5/3 Oluwatoyin Ottun  
5/5 Bert Gray  
5/12 Norma Maddio  
5/13 Steve Furrow  
5/13 Cathy Ashby  
5/17 Dennis Messamore  
5/20 Bob Brady  
5/24 Dave Brandon  
5/29 Lora Dills



## May 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. This month the donation will be sent to Warrensburg-Latham Elementary School.

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## May Do Good Dollars

This month **Do Good Dollars** will be given to the Greater Decatur Youth Band, a summer band program for more than 150 students in grades 5-9. The students practice twice each week and perform weekly at neighborhood ice cream socials. They will also play at the Children's Museum of Illinois and in the Decatur Celebration Parade.



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## Membership Updates

April was another great month for welcoming new members to Rotary Club of Decatur!

Erin Brownlow is the Marketing Coordinator for Main Street Bank and Trust. She first learned of Rotary when District Governor John Berhendt asked the bank to sponsor Bruce Weber's presentation at the District Conference. Erin likes to read, dance and play with her dog. She was sponsored for membership by Heather Stoa.

Kemper Willcut II. Kemper grew up in Decatur. He recently moved from the family restaurant business to New York Life as an agent. He and his wife Jessica are new first time parents. Kemper was sponsored for membership by Bud Wilcox.

Tami Crouch is the Branch Manager for the Ash Ave facility of Main Street Bank and Trust. She joined our club on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Tami and her husband, Mike, live in Decatur. She enjoys sewing and crafts in her free time. Tami was sponsored for membership by Bob Pancoast.

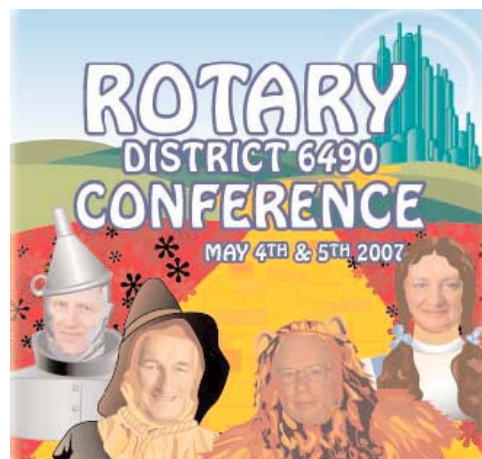
We currently have 129 members including three honorary members. Please invite a friend to join Rotary and experience the benefits of membership

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## Three District Conference Awards!

At the District Conference in Champaign, our club was recognized with three awards for our newsletter, our international service project in Mérida, Mexico and our Web site! Normally clubs cannot win the same award two years in a row, but the conference awards committee felt that our Web site is so user friendly that we deserved the recognition.

Heather Stoa gave a short presentation to the conference attendees about our 13 year relationship with Amor Y Vida Orphanage. She showed photographs of the children and staff from pictures taken by Noel Myers on past trips and from the January trip taken by Noel, Heather, her husband Terry, and Gary Peek. She talked of past and future partnerships with Mérida Rotarians to assist the children of Amor Y Vida.



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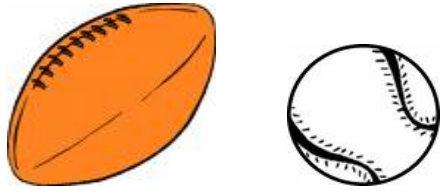
Keep up to date with the *Every Rotarian, Every Year* initiative through the quarterly newsletter.  
View or subscribe through the RI web site at: <http://erey.rotary.org>

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## 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>.

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## April Scholar-Athletes

St. Teresa High School seniors Emily Fitzgerald and Chad McCoy were honored as April Scholar-Athletes. They were accompanied to the meeting by their principal Joe McDaniel, and their parents David and Cynthia Fitzgerald and Tom and Robyn McCoy.

Emily has a 4.32 GPA, has been on the High Honor Roll all four years of high school and received the Okaw Conference Principals Award and the YWCA Young Women of Excellence Award. She is a member of National Honor Society, Servium and SADD.

Emily played volleyball, basketball and softball. In volleyball she was named All-State, All-County, All-Conference, and Team MVP and set the records for the most kills, digs, and aces. In basketball and softball, she was also named All-State, All-County, All-Conference and Team MVP

Emily plans to attend Marquette University next fall.

Chad McCoy has 3.71 GPA. He is a member of National Honor Society and has served as a KAIROS leader. Chad played football and basketball four years and baseball for three years. He lettered in football his senior year and lettered in basketball both his junior and senior years. He was also the recipient in basketball of the Bulldog Award.

Chad plans to attend Purdue University and major in chemical engineering.



## Kudos for Weekly Service to Our Club

Thank you to Paula Finn, Steve Hill, Jim Montgomery, Susan Keane and Melinda Hawbaker for beginning our meetings with thoughtful invocations; to Sergeants-at-Arms Jane Shade, Al Luchetti, Dick Shelby and David Goebel for introducing visitors and collecting Happy Bucks; to our greeters Diana Knaebe, Mike DelSignore, Howard Beede and Glen Dalluge for making everyone feel welcome; to David Coopridner, Howard Brown and Stu Ellis for leading us in song; to Miley Palmer for wearing his magnificent hat and extending birthday wishes, to Lora Dills for providing ice cream for the birthday celebration, to Martin Getty for introducing the Teacher of the Month, to Dick Cain for a heartfelt message of giving to The Rotary Foundation,

to Tony Wilkins for introducing the Scholar-Athletes; to Paul Stanzione and his staff at the YMCA for hosting us on April 9<sup>th</sup>, and to Tina Noland for chaperoning at the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) weekends at Allerton Park.

Special thanks to Susan Keane (our own hospitality specialist) for immediately notifying the Decatur Club wait staff and helping to clean up spilled drinks and beverages when a table collapsed during the singing of "My Country Tis of Thee". Just like in the movie of *The Glen Miller Story* when bombs began bursting while the band was playing, Howard Brown continued leading us in song!

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## April Teacher of the Month Julie Erwin-Fane



Julie Erwin-Fane is a fourth grade teacher at Enterprise Elementary School. Julie was born in Decatur, but grew up in the Chicago area. She is the mother of three and began her college education following the births of her children. Although this is her first year as a teacher, she has already exhibited the skills needed to help her students succeed academically. Julie has written grants to fund activities for an after school self-image group targeted for girls in the intermediate grades.

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## An Amor Y Vida Orphanage Update

After investigating the possibility of a Matching Grant for remodeling the kitchen of Amor Y Vida, we learned that the project did not meet the guidelines. Our board gave the Orphanage board the choice of using funds approved for this fiscal year for the previously submitted wish list or the kitchen remodel, and they chose the kitchen remodel. The wish list for future needs remain, and the board will consider the requests in the new fiscal year. In the short-term, they are in desperate need of a new washing machine. If any members would like to contribute directly towards its \$707 purchase price, please contact Heather Stoa for details.



The current kitchen prep and clean-up area



Stove and cabinets on opposite wall



Refrigerator, freezer and pantry



Laundry is an all day every day chore to provide clean clothes, towels, diapers and bedding for the 30 children at Amor Y Vida

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For past issues of **The Sparkplug**, 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](http://www.decaturotary.org)

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## Members Committee Interests Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check your areas of interest and return to president-elect Steve Furrow at the meeting, by mail: ADM Wellness Center 4666 Faries Parkway Decatur, IL 62526; e-mail: Steve\_Furrow@admworld.com; or fax: 217-451-4421**

Please remember that while the following committee activities are delegated on a regular basis to fellow Rotarians, they are the responsibilities of all Rotarians at all times.

### Committee Descriptions and Responsibilities

\_\_\_\_\_ **Family:** To receive notice from club members that a Rotarian or his/her family member is experiencing a difficulty, to follow up with a card or phone call, and to report back to the club on the status of the Rotarian or his/her family member.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Fellowship:** To organize social activities or events for Rotarians; to serve as mentors for new members; to contact members not attending and invite them to a meeting; to arrange a members' birthday table the first meeting of each month

\_\_\_\_\_ **Foundation:** To educate Rotarians about the RI Foundation and its work; to encourage Rotarians to donate \$100 a year to the Every Rotarian, Every Year campaign; to recognize Rotarians who contribute; to recognize Paul Harris Fellows

\_\_\_\_\_ **Grants:** To review, rank and award grant funds to community organizations and individuals who apply for local funding; to host recipients at meetings where funds are distributed; to recommend Do Good Dollar recipients

\_\_\_\_\_ **Greeters:** To greet Rotarians, visiting Rotarians and guests at the door at each weekly meeting; to assist visitors and guests with nametags, food and seating

\_\_\_\_\_ **International:** To manage the club's response to service projects of our choosing and Rotary International projects; to coordinate exchanges with other countries, including hosting international visitors and students

\_\_\_\_\_ **Invocations:** To solicit and schedule Rotarians to provide an invocation at the beginning of each meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ **Membership:** To contact potential members; to invite potential members to a meeting; to serve as sponsors for the new members; to encourage attendance at a New Member Orientation

\_\_\_\_\_ **Member Recognition:** To recognize the Distinguished Rotarian of the Quarter and to recognize members for accomplishments within the club and community.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Newsletter:** To take photos, submit articles for the newsletter each month, to publish, e-mail and make hard copies of the newsletter available to the membership; to mail copies to members without e-mail

\_\_\_\_\_ **Programs:** To solicit ideas for programs; to contact and schedule speakers; to submit information about upcoming programs to club members and to the media; to introduce the programs

\_\_\_\_\_ **Public Relations:** To submit information about Rotary special events, activities, or members to the press

\_\_\_\_\_ **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA):** To review applications and select area high school sophomores, juniors and seniors (in conjunction with representatives from Decatur Metro, Forsyth Sunrise and Blue Mound Rotary Clubs) to attend the District Rotary Youth Leadership Camp held by grade group one weekend each spring at Allerton Park; to serve shifts as chaperones during RYLA Camp

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sergeant at Arms:** To introduce guests, visiting Rotarians, announce make-ups and solicit Happy Bucks at each meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ **Volunteers:** To solicit and schedule individuals to help with Rotary activities or Rotary supported activities such as the Turkey Tournament, Salvation Army bell ringing, weeding and planting at Rotary Park

I am willing to serve on \_\_\_\_\_ committee or serve as chair of \_\_\_\_\_ committee.