

Miley's Musings

Last month we talked about how Rotary began as an attempt for business leaders to learn more about each other's professions and work, and in the process enhance opportunities to network together. That purpose remains the major reason why most of us initially joined Rotary: to meet others in business and build opportunities for our own business to possibly expand.

Early on, Rotarians discovered that it's not enough to just come together and eat. They needed interesting programs, and that remains another major reason for attending Rotary. Our Program Committee succeeds in offering a wide variety of informative and sometimes inspiring programs each week. But also those early Rotarians decided that they needed to have a service outlet. Therefore, we became a "service organization," the first and largest of its kind.

The first service project chosen by the Chicago Rotary Club (now known as "Number One") was the creation of a comfort station or public restroom in the Loop, an unusual amenity in that day when public restrooms were practically unheard of. As other projects proliferated and new clubs were formed around the country, it was decided to create a Rotary Foundation for funding service projects. Gifts that come in are invested for three years, in order to generate funds for operating the

Foundation. Then the entire amount of the original gift goes to the designated need. Since its inception, the Foundation has funded over \$800 million dollars worth of projects to help the needy around the world.

The most famous project in recent memory, of course, has been the attempt to eradicate polio, an effort scheduled to end in success next year. But many other projects are also in process, ranging from eradicating malaria to providing seed money grants for women starting a small business in third world countries. A Peace Studies Institute has been established, whereby young foreign college graduates are trained in mediation methods. After returning to their homelands, they then teach others these ways to settle disputes peacefully.

Rotarians are challenged to be part of the service club by giving time and money for the projects of their own clubs, and also to donate regularly to the Rotary Foundation for its international projects. The easiest method for many of us is to have a regular amount, marked for the Foundation, added to our quarterly dues and meals billing. Hope you join me in doing that, if you aren't already doing so.

Yours in Rotary,
Miley

Membership Update

New Members & Applicants



Susan Keane

New members are a vital part of any organization, but are the lifeblood of our Rotary Club, as we are a service club, and there is strength in numbers. Thus, it's always a pleasure to introduce new Rotary members and those interested in becoming members. On May 3rd

Susan Keane, sponsored by Rick Smith, was introduced as a new Rotary member. Susan is the Sales Manager for

the Holiday Inn, a position she's held for almost a year. She's been with the hotel three years, and a resident of Decatur for 6 years. Susan is married and has a daughter who will be a first grader at LSA.

Judy McQuality**Teacher of the Month**

Honors go to teacher Judy McQuality. Judy teaches Sixth Grade at South Shores Grade School. Congratulations, Judy!

Rotary Youth Exchange - Student Bids Farewell

Rotary Youth Exchange is established on the premise that the most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is the exposure to different cultures. When we learn that all people – regardless of nationality – desire the same basic things, the world becomes a smaller, friendlier place. This program provides thousands of young people the opportunity to meet people from other lands and to experience their cultures. And by sponsoring one of these special young people, we've provided the privilege and opportunity to hear, first-hand, about all their exciting experiences, as we did at our May 24th luncheon.

Isabella Hamdan, in Decatur through Youth Exchange, returns at month's end to State Minas Gerais, Brazil. The population of her hometown is approximately 40 thousand, with an economy primarily comprised of agriculture and commerce. Year-round, the temperature is 80 degrees F. with low humidity, so Isabella says she really enjoyed the snow she experienced here. Of course, she quickly added she's glad there's no snow in Brazil.

Isabella has a sister who is eight and a brother who's 11. While studying at St. Teresa High School throughout the 2003-2004 school year, she stayed with Gary and Ann Bradley and their two daughters Elizabeth, 16 and Sarah, 10. Hamdan graduated with excellent grades. Many commented that she mastered the English language excep-

tionally well. After returning to Brazil she hopes to go on to law school, as she has a keen interest in International Law.

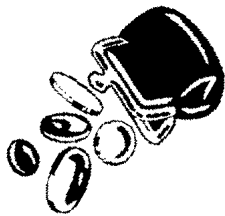
Throughout her stay, Hamdan had the opportunity to visit many other places in the United States with her host family. At our luncheon, she said she was fortunate to be able to visit Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, but has never had the opportunity to visit her own. Her host family also took her to visit Chicago, St. Louis, and locations in Georgia.

Although Isabella says she's ready to go home, she's still got one thing left to do here: she's going to spend her remaining days in Decatur shopping, as her money goes much farther here than in her homeland. A pair of tennis shoes that costs \$100 here sells for \$300 in Brazil. So, she says she's going to stock up and stash as much as she can prior to leaving.

Hamdan extended her deepest thanks to Decatur Rotary and the Youth Exchange Program, saying that without them, she would never have had this opportunity to attend high school or experience life as an exchange student here in Decatur. We wish Isabella the best, and look forward to hearing from her on her future studies and achievements.

Penny Fund

Each month a different local charity 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. YMCA



the 14th Annual Race for the Cure, which supports breast cancer research and programs. The Race is

Camp Sokia, a day camp program for 1st – 8th graders, received our May donations, which totaled \$263.24

July Penny Fund contributions go to

June 26th at Fairview Park, beginning at 8:30 a.m. You can still register at Hickory Point Mall Wednesday and Thursday June 23rd and 24th. There is a 5K competitive run for women and men, and both a 5K and a 1K walk. Please give generously to help wipe out breast cancer!

Member

A Dynamic Duo

This month we're doing something a little different, bestowing Member of the Month upon a 'pair' of members. This seemed very fitting to us, as these members themselves do things a little 'differently'. We couldn't choose between them for this honor. These members work together and spend their leisure time together, and both belong to Rotary. And oh, yes, they're married to each other, as well! We're referring to the Drs. Finn, Jim and Paula, who garner our member spotlight for June 2004.

Paula and Jim have been Rotary members since August 2002. They've been Chairs of the Program Committee for the past year and will continue those responsibilities throughout this coming year. Under their inspired, generous and friendly leadership, the Program Committee, ensures that all members of our Rotary Club want to continue attending our weekly meetings.

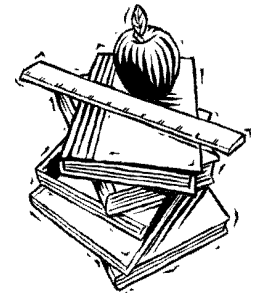
Paula hails from southwestern Montana and earned her BA in Psychology in Kansas. Jim, an Iowa native, earned his BA in English and Drama in Iowa. While he was completing a training program at the Menninger Foundation in Kansas, he met Paula who was doing an Internship there. As fate would have it, they fell in love and married. Shortly after, Jim was offered a job in Decatur.

Moving here in 1970, they planned to stay for a year and move on. They're now still here and very involved in our community. They've had the opportunity to leave and continue their careers elsewhere, but the people of Decatur have held them here for the past 34 years. They've both earned their Master's Degrees. Jim earned two, both in Counseling, and Paula earned hers in Social Work.

While working together in clinical counseling and administrative capacities, they realized there was a need for a more specialized form of what they were practicing already. They were moving toward organizational consulting, which they discovered they both really enjoyed. Before they could do this full time, they needed more training. Thus, they embarked on their Doctoral programs together at the University of Illinois. Both earned PhD's in Organizational Psychology, an experience Paula says was a very positive one. They were the first husband and wife team to finish the program together.

Currently, Jim and Paula are the principals of The Finn Group, which specializes in industrial and organizational (I/O) psychology. I/O psychology improves the effectiveness of people and organizations, whereas clinical psychology provides treatment to individuals experiencing psychological and/or emotional problems. The Doctors work with family-owned businesses, senior executives, government agencies and not-for-profit organizations. They provide consultation to industries, businesses and organizations in a variety of areas, including employee management selection, organizational development, succession planning (especially helpful for family business), executive and managerial coaching, leadership development and career assessment and planning.

Paula says their hobby is career counseling with friends and family! They both love what they do and look forward to each new day. The other, more traditional hobbies they enjoy are reading, accessing and supporting all the differing arts, and doing volunteer work. Please make sure to introduce yourself to Drs. Jim and Paula Finn, and welcome them as our returning Rotary Program Committee Chairs.



The Gift of Reading

In tribute to our weekly speakers, every month we gift a book to an elementary school. Baum Grade School received a \$60 gift this month to purchase library books.

Next month's Speakers' Honorarium goes to Blue Mound Grade School.

Committee

Keeping Us Coming Back for More

Well aware our Rotary members have many time constraints and many other commitments, Program Committee Chairs

Drs. Jim and Paula Finn work hard to ensure interesting, fun and informative speakers are always part of every Rotary

(Continued on page 4)

June 7, 2004

June 6, 2004 is the 60th anniversary of D-Day. To commemorate this event, several of our Rotary club's World War II era veterans will share their thoughts and experiences with us. In addition, Bill Owen will bring detailed maps that he has developed of the D-Day landing.

June 14, 2004

Our own Steve Furrow will provide us a humorous update on the "how to" as well as the importance of maintaining our health and well-being.

June 21, 2004

Our own Nelda Sumner, President of Junior Achievement of East Central Illinois, will update the club on the activities and achievements of Junior Achievement in the community.

June 28, 2004

Our President, Miley Palmer, will convene his last meeting and provide us a summary of his year in office.

Profiles (cont.)

meeting. As Paula says' "If you want people to attend, give them a reason." So they do! Excellent speakers on our programs give us yet another incentive to attend Rotary weekly. For their enthusiasm and commitment to realizing this ideal, the Program Committee, the Drs. Finn and their committee members are in our recognition spotlight for June 2004.

When the Finn's accepted the position of Program Committee Chairs last year, they had only been Rotary members for about 9 months. But, eager to help and wanting to make Rotary a positive experience for all, they threw themselves headlong into the task. Wanting a diverse committee with many community contacts, they asked three other Rotarians to assist them, Cindy Laegeler, Tim Hill and Pen Shade. Meeting every two months, they brainstormed an extensive list of speaker possibilities, and always managed to secure someone who teaches our Club something fresh and new each week.

For this upcoming year, both Jim and Paula have graciously agreed to remain in their current positions, as have their original three Program Committee members. Additionally, they extended invitations to Diana Knaebe, Mike Heneghan and Miley Palmer. All accepted, and we look forward to the programs and speakers they will come up with going forward. Please say hello to Jim, Paula and their original 'Three Musketeers,' and welcome the new committee members, and extend a warm and heartfelt "Thank You" to all of them for their dedication (maybe this will give them an extra incentive to keep the great speakers coming to us every week!).

Officers

Miley Palmer – President
Stu Ellis – President-Elect
Kit Paulin – Secretary
Heather Stoa – Treasurer
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