

OPENING

Time: 6:00
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation: Steve Brownell

GUESTS

Sandy MacMechan, guest of Jessica Keyser.

VISITING ROTARIANS

None.

BIRTHDAYS

John Maliszewski (12/14), Jon Gandelot (12/15), Michael Newman (12/19), Eva Habib (12/20), Mark Zmyslowski (12/21), and Rick Ferrara (12/29).

ANNIVERSARIES

Cissie Cappola, 2 years. Bob Bury, 27 years. Rich Solak, 33 years.

ROVING REPORTER

Johann Finkelmeier
-- Johann and Liz Vogel just returned from a trip to Florida (which had too much Michigan weather for Johann) before Liz starts her new job with Traverse City.
-- This is Ron Vitale's last meeting until April, as he takes his annual hiatus to Marco Island.
-- The GP Library's Ewald Branch is celebrating the winter solstice from 4:30pm-5:30pm on 12/21 with memories and hot chocolate.
-- Special emphasis on a birthday, as Jon Gandelot celebrated his 80th on 12/15. Congratulations!

OIL CAN

Postponed.

SUNSHINE NEWS

Jackie Dale

-- Jackie asked that we keep all of the membership in our prayers during this holiday season.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

-- The next food drive at GP Memorial Church for The Second Mile Center will take place from 10:00am – 11:00am on 1/13. Judy Masserang will provide a list of needed items in an upcoming Monday e-mail.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- To have an exchange student for the 2024-25 school year, the Club needs host families, and a deadline to make this happen is fast approaching. Please let Dave Colton know if you are able to help. He has store-front posters to promote this, and they can be picked up at the Blue Book office.
-- No meetings until January 10. Happy Holidays, everyone!

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Major Patrick Linford, U.S. Army – Job Opportunities in the U.S. Army

Major Linford, a 2007 West Point graduate, began his career as an engineer officer in the operational branch of the Army. His job was to support military operations around the world by “pushing dirt” (i.e., building roads and making sure there was proper drainage. An example of this, when deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, was to take a small base that housed 100 and turn it into one that could house 2,000 in just three months. His second deployment in 2014 required him to maintain 108 bridges.

At this point, Major Linford pivoted to the institutional side of the Army. He obtained a master's in

mechanical engineering and taught at West Point. The Army likes to have teachers with 7-10 years of experience to mentor the

students and give them an idea as to what to expect.

His next stop brought him here, working at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren. His duties there included the wholesale overhaul of military vehicles with the armored multi-purpose vehicle (AMPV). The first overhaul since the 1970s. While his family remained in the Detroit area, he also had a brief stint working in marketing for the Army out of Chicago.

Major Linford has been in Grosse Pointe for three years as he pursues a PhD in mechanical engineering at U of M. After obtaining his degree, he will return to teaching at West Point.

The two things that Major Linford stressed about the Army are: (1) its willingness to invest in its people, as his degrees show/will show; and (2) a military career can be as focused or as broad as you want it to be.

FLOWER RAFFLE

\$40 in the pot. Steve Brownell bought the winning ticket but was unable to find the joker.

CALENDAR

Jan 10: Jef Fisk: Right Brain/Left Brian: Creativity Takes Many Forms

Jan 17: Ruth Azar, Founder & Director of The Second Mile Center: Power of Positivity