

OPENING

Time: 6:00 PM
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Invocation: Diane Strickler
 Prayer and moment of silence for the passing of Dick Dunlap: Susan Mozena

GUESTS

None.

VISITING ROTARIANS

None.

BIRTHDAYS

Mark Weber (1/22) and Jim Fikany (1/23). Neil Sroka's daughter, Frankie (1/24).

ANNIVERSARIES

Chuck Gabel, 10 years.

ROVING REPORTER

John Mozena
 -- Nice pictures in Grosse Pointe Magazine of Jon and Lisa Gandelot and Mark Weber attending an event for The Helm.
 -- John is impressed and proud of Rotary's work on two fronts: (1) Polio Plus, a program that was announced at the 1986 Munich RI Convention that he attended. Africa is now considered polio free. (2) RI has committed \$97 million in grant money for Club Projects in 2022.

OIL CAN

-- Postponed.

SUNSHINE NEWS

No news.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

-- Valentines for Meals On Wheels recipients. Our Club has committed to provide The Helm with 100 Valentine cards. There will be

signing sessions at our next three meetings and you can also write your own cards (signed in the name of Rotary) that can be brought to a meeting or dropped off at the homes of Doris Neal, Diane Strickler, or Dick Allison. Contact Dick for more details.

-- Humane Society Telethon. 7 volunteers are needed for the Telethon in Bingham Farms on 2/10 from 6-9pm. Steve Cornillie has sent out an email with details on how to register. Please contact him or Heather Mayernik for details.

-- Food Drive on 2/5 from 10am-11am in the GP Memorial Church parking lot. With food prices rising, your donation is more important than ever.

-- The GP South Interact Club is looking for donations of blank stationary/paper for an Arts & Scraps project. Contact Kevin Cox to help out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- Per Rebecca Fannon, there is a GP School District town hall on the district's strategic plan from 6-7pm on 1/20. It's a virtual meeting. <https://livestream.com/accounts/3685210/events/10079282>

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Allen Littlejohn and Kelly Littlejohn: Sickle Cell Anemia – Fulfill the Cell Foundation Inc.

Allen, age 20, accompanied by his father, Kelly, shared his story about living with Sickle Cell Anemia. Allen spent much of his childhood and teen years in the hospital.

Sickle Cell is a red blood disorder, inherited when both parents carry the gene. Healthy red blood cells are smooth, round, and bendable to

easily flow through blood vessels and carry oxygen. With Sickle Cell, the cells can change shape and form a sickle, or crescent. They can become stiff and sticky, blocking blood flow and breaking down inside the blood vessels. The sticking of the blood causes tremendous pain by not allowing oxygen to organs and tissues.

Around 100,000 people in the U.S. have Sickle Cell, with 90% being of African descent. The disease likely comes from evolution's attempt to protect against malaria.

Allen's symptoms typically start in his lower back and chest and he tries to manage them from spiking through his diet and staying hydrated. Unfortunately, his condition limits his ability to participate in physical activities and swimming.

Despite his battles, Allen was able to graduate high school and is currently learning Japanese with the hope to travel there to study culinary arts and Japanese cuisine. His goal is to become an award-winning Executive Chef.

For a short video on Sickle Cell, go to <https://youtu.be/%awUisynQoU>

CALENDAR

Jan 26: Richard Allison: Hobby Writing Personal Military Histories Using Family Correspondence

Feb 02: John Mozena, son of John and Susan Mozena (topic is tbd)