

# ROTARpinte

News & Information from the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe

NO. 4317 • DISTRICT 6400 • CHARTERED JUNE 17, 1937

VOLUME 82 \* \* \* June 12, 2019 \* \* \* NIEHAUS #43

## OPENING

Time: 6:00 PM  
 Combined meeting with GP Sunrise  
 Pledge of Allegiance: Presidents  
 Gary Niehaus and Bob Duker  
 Invocation: Judy Masserang

## GUESTS

Two friends of our program's student panel.

## VISITING ROTARIANS

Ray Opezzo, Mebby Pearson, and  
 Trey Greene from the Detroit Club.

## BIRTHDAYS

Julie Baumer and Susan Mozena

## ANNIVERSARIES

None.

## ROVING REPORTER

-- No report.

## OIL CAN

-- Postponed.

## SUNSHINE NEWS

No report.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

-- No report.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- Peter Henry was in attendance to say good bye as he and his family leave for his new job at the Davidson College Presbyterian Church in North Carolina.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

Fred Pearson, a Detroit Rotarian and Wayne State Professor, and four Muslim students from WSU and U of M Dearborn.

Dr. Pearson is a Professor of Political Science and the Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. He described the areas that he is working in and showed a video of Rotary Peace Fellows in action. Primarily, they are forming non-profits to make the world a better place to live. Dr. Pearson served as a moderator for the panel.

(Editor's note – the names of the mixture of undergraduate and graduate students were not provided in writing). The panel consisted of two men and two women. The men's nationality were Iraqi, while one woman's was Syrian and the other was raised Baptist in Dearborn and converted to Islam last year.

## Q&A format:

-- The student who converted was asked to explain her motivating factors? She said that growing up with nice Muslim friends, she didn't understand why Baptists believed that were damned to hell because they didn't believe in Jesus. She also found the Quran to be more fact based and less faith based than the bible.

-- When asked about the impact extremists have on their religion, they replied that there are over 1.5 billion Muslims in the world and there will always be those who are bad people. The Koran doesn't preach violence and the students believe that being better educated about their faith

would bring a better understanding.  
 -- When asked about the fighting in the Middle East between the Shia and Sunni Muslims, they explained that the tensions are not centered around their religious differences but are more about politics and power in the area.

The prominent message expressed by one of the students is that we should all be tolerant and get to know one another and that people need to learn how to express their disagreements in a learning manner.

Dr. Pearson closed with a reminder of a Rotary event on October 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> called Peace in the Streets. It is a cross border Rotary peace symposium.

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

(A very informative meeting. Thank you to George McMullen for setting it up).

## FLOWER RAFFLE

\$616 in the pot with \$308 going to the winner. Roger Hull held the lucky ticket but wasn't able to pick the joker. Thank you to Charvat the Florist for the beautiful arrangement.

## CALENDAR

Jun 19: Com. Brian Geraghty & Bob Nutter – Port Huron to Mackinac Race

Jun 26: Passing of the Gavel

Jul 03: No meeting

Jul 10: Detroit Abloom. First Meeting at the GPYC