



# THE WINDJAMMER

More online at [Facebook.com/JuneauRotary](https://www.facebook.com/JuneauRotary) or [www.juneaurotary.org](http://www.juneaurotary.org)

## UPCOMING

**June 23**

John Blasco and Mendenhall PTA - Juneau Rotary Project, Mendenhall School Playground Equipment

**June 30**

No Meeting - Year end banquet

## GREETERS

**June 16**

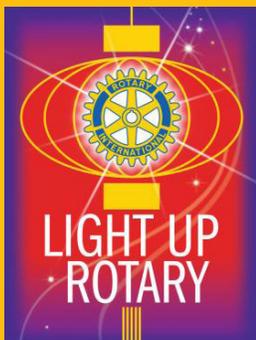
Win Gruening  
John Sandor

**June 23**

Ruth Hamilton Heese  
Bruce Weyhrauch



2014-2015 Rotary International Theme:

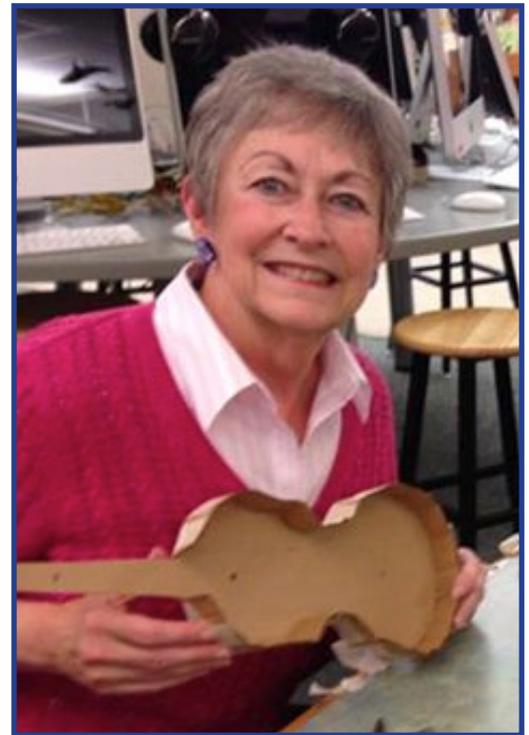


## This Week's Program: Sally Smith, Musical Education as a Community Economic Driver

Despite a degree in Music Education, Sally Smith has spent the bulk of her career in government service. She has worked for four Alaska governors, directed two state agencies, served three terms as an Alaska State Representative and one as Juneau's Mayor.

An addict of variety, Sally has also been spotted in the private sector waiting tables, selling clothing, driving truck, and managing her own consulting business.

Prior to coming to Alaska, she taught junior high music and English in South Central Los Angeles. In Juneau, she has served as a music director for Perseverance Theatre, Juneau-Douglas Little Theatre and Juneau Lyric Opera (JLO) where she developed "Holiday Pops," a popular, annual concert. She has also played percussion with the Juneau Symphony and served as its guest conductor for a production of "Kismet."



Most recently, Sally represented U.S. Senator Mark Begich in northern Southeast. During this tenure she was struck by a growing emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) as the answer for creative innovation to stimulate the U.S. economy. Resources dedicated to STEM often came at the expense of the arts. Believing that

arts education is the foundation for creative, innovative thinking, she set out to explore her theory, and found more than she expected.



Today, she will share scientific evidence which supports arts education as a threshold to higher learning. These findings suggest that STEM innovations may depend on an arts foundation, most notably through early training in instrumental music. As a result, Sally advocates for "STEAM" as a better acronym to recognize the arts as a vital component to reach economic development through innovation.

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## LUNCH FOR TODAY'S MEETING

- *Meat or Veggie Lasagna*
- *Garden Salad*
- *Roasted Veggies*
- *Garlic Brea*
- *Tiramisu*



## ROTARY NEWS...

### KNOCKING DOWN LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Before the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, Russian was the predominant second language offered in Polish schools, leaving tens of thousands of Polish emigrants without the English skills they needed.



That has changed over the last 25 years. English proficiency drastically improved after the government reformed its education system in 1991. The country overhauled its teaching curriculum and materials and introduced English as the primary foreign language. As of 2013, Poland ranks 8th in the world in English proficiency.

However, one segment of the population isn't reaping the benefits of the improved curriculum. Thousands of students in poor rural villages attend schools that don't have the adequate resources or well trained personnel to properly teach English, putting them at a disadvantage in today's global economy and labor market, says Anna Wiczorek, a Rotary Club of Warszawa City member and author of Poland's English curriculum for grades 1-3.

"The budgets of state schools in rural areas are limited compared to those in the cities and private schools," Wiczorek says. "Teachers in these schools are often underpaid and undertrained. Consequently, the level of teaching English is far from meeting the appropriate standards."

Added to that, she says, their students face social exclusion. "They lack the self-confidence and communication skills that students in the city, who have access to modern technology, might have," she says. "The inability to learn English -- let alone acquire an appropriate education -- early on in their lives makes it difficult for them to evolve and develop further in life."

*Read the rest of the story online at <https://www.rotary.org/en/news-media/knocking-down-language-barriers>*

*Thanks to AK Litho/CopyWorks, for printing The Windjammer!*