



THE WINDJAMMER

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

UPCOMING

August 6
Board Meeting:
Wells Fargo Conf.
Rm.

September 18
Cruise Ship
Luncheon

GREETERS

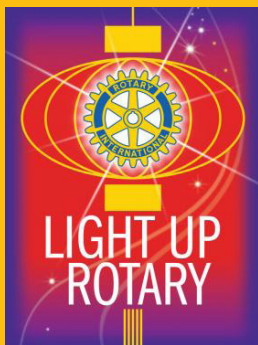
August 5
Mary Siroky
Marsha Smith

August 12
Barbara Propes
Barbara Sheinberg

August 19
Brad Kiefer



2014-2015 Rotary
International Theme:

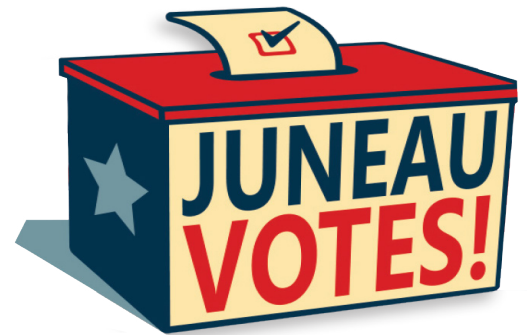


This Week's Program:

Juneau Votes - Robert Barr & Teri Tibbet



Robert Barr is the director of the Juneau Public Libraries, and has lived in Juneau for about a year and a half – or, about a week by Juneau standards. Robert has worked in a variety of libraries for the past 11 years, and he's interested in reimagining the way libraries fulfill their mission in society: improving our community through knowledge creation, access to information, and civic engagement.



Teri Tibbett is the advocacy coordinator for the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA). She works closely with the boards and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority on their advocacy efforts, including the Trust-funded "I Vote I Count" campaign, which encourages people with disabilities to register and vote.

For more election information you can visit these websites: elections.alaska.gov, juneau.org/clerk/elections, and vote411.org

Recap of Last Meeting

Kara Nelson gave the club a moving and insightful recounting of her trials with drug use and her triumph in overcoming this terrible time in her life. She now uses this experience to empower and mentor others as part of Haven House, a project that our club is supporting, to give women coming out of the prison system a chance at a new life and a better choice...



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JUNEAU BOARD
2014-2015**

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Rotary Spotlight - Out of Chaos

How do you help girls in Ghana escape poverty? You listen.



©Glenna Gordon

The smells smack us, first fish, then cooking stews, urine, smoldering trash, one after another. Music blares and people shout “obrini!” – “white lady!” – as our all-female team of Rotary volunteers walks through. We scramble on roads swallowed whole by potholes, edge single-file through alleyways between shacks, duck under clotheslines, skirt past clothing heaped in mounds and by vendors selling a rainbow of fruits and vegetables, yellow and red peppers, yams, plantains. The staccato rhythm of someone pounding fufu, a staple dish in Africa, acts as the heartbeat of this slum alongside the railways in central Accra, Ghana.

A village girl will step off a train into these frenzied streets to start a new life, trying to escape a forced marriage, a broken home, or a future in rural poverty. Without the career skills required for a well-paying job, she'll join the cacophony, working as one of the kayayee – female porters who carry goods on their heads – or as a vendor peddling gum, candy, water, towels, mosquito nets, batteries, flip-flops. (“It’s like a Walmart on the streets,” one of the volunteers comments.) Whatever money she earns will go toward food, a shower, and a safe place to sleep, not to the stable home she had once imagined. She won’t be alone: A 2012 census estimated that more than 60,000 people under 18 live or work on the streets of Accra.

“No projects. Instead, what if we build relationships before we build stuff?”

If she’s lucky, when she arrives in the city, she’ll encounter someone from Street Girls Aid. Caseworkers from the Accra-based nonprofit – including Issah Nare, who lets our team from the United States tag along with him on the job one morning – come here daily to befriend these vulnerable young women so that if a problem arises, they know someone who can help. “A lot of them know who you are, but how long it takes to get comfortable depends on the girl,” he says. We stop to chat with Abida, whose thumb is swollen to three times its normal size; the caseworkers try to persuade her to seek medical help, but she has no insurance and no money to pay for a doctor herself. Later, we run into Aśmāu, dressed in a tailored black-and-white polka-dot shirt and striped skirt, who completed the organization’s sewing program, found a job, and is encouraging a friend to do the same.

Street Girls Aid also offers vocational training in cooking and hairdressing, operates daycare centers in slums throughout the city, and runs a home for pregnant teens and new mothers, which provides literacy and life-skills classes. Executive Director Vida Asomaning Amoako says that since the organization was founded in 1994, it has helped the equivalent of “a small village” through its programs.

Read the rest of the story online at <http://therotarianmagazine.com/out-of-chaos/>

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