

# INFLUENCERS SERIES

## Please be Rotary's Guest to Hear Notable Speakers — Influencing Our Community and Beyond —

Register for a **FREE Breakfast**  
served at Chanhassen American Legion or join us online

**MARCH 2**

### **Polar Plunge Warms My Heart**

**Ian Leonard, FOX 9 Chief Meteorologist**

A Mississippi State U Geosciences graduate, Ian lives his life by one sentence: "I love my life, I love my wife, I love my daughters and I love my dog ... I kinda like the cats."

In the past 5 years he survived cancer, finished 3 Ironman races and learned to empty the dishwasher.

Working tirelessly all year for Special Olympics MN and the 8,000 Special athletes, he has raised more than \$25 million for the annual winter Polar Plunge (he's plunged over 300 times) and his fall PGA Bad Pants Open Golf Tournament.

Every morning when he wakes he asks himself the same question: what will I do for someone else today?



**MARCH 16**

### **Welcome to America**

**Sonia Sahar Anunciacion, Afghan Response Team**

Sonia is a first-generation Afghan American. In her 18+ years of professional leadership, she has worked in dynamic fast paced environments including community service, education, real estate, and law. Sonia saw the need to support Afghan families resettling in the Twin Cities Metro. She partnered with ALight and now oversees the effort ensuring emergency response meets the needs of over 750 Afghan individuals.

She organized a community donation drive, which raised over \$150,000 for these families. Thanks to her tireless efforts, Afghan families now feel a sense of welcome, protection, dignity, and joy in their new home.



**MARCH 9**

### **Shark Tank Spreads Light**

**Gene and Keidy Palusky, Edina Inventors**

This innovative couple appeared on Shark Tank, with their invention XTorch, a solar powered device that works as a flashlight, lantern and cell phone charger.

Lack of light is a problem in developing countries, something Keidy experienced firsthand growing up in the Dominican Republic. While working with children in Equatorial Guinea, Africa, she and Gene again saw the same problem happening there and they took action.

Their passion is to have XTorch delivered to children as well as advocating for solar-rechargeable light. Last year, they donated 2,000 devices. A quarter of their profits go to disaster relief organizations.



**MARCH 23**

### **12 Million Guests Later**

**Michael Brindisi, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres**

Michael celebrates his 34th year as Resident Artistic Director for the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres. In addition, he also serves on the ownership team and now adds the title of president to his "credits".

Mr. Brindisi, who has enjoyed a successful career, has acted with John Lithgow, Treat Williams, and Sandy Duncan. He was honored by the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization to co-develop and direct the World Premiere of Irving Berlin's Easter Parade, which debuted in the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres in 2007.

On a personal note, he is married to actor Michelle Barber, and their daughter Cat, an actor, is married to actor and director David Darrow.



**7-8am on FOUR WEDNESDAYS in MARCH**

Guest registration required

**[www.ChanhassenRotary.org](http://www.ChanhassenRotary.org)**

Limited seating - FREE breakfasts compliments  
of the **Rotary** at the **Chanhassen American Legion**

**Rotary**  
Club of Chanhassen

