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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

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Rene' Sissons McCabe



Our program this week will be presented by Rene' Sissons McCabe who was born in Hartswater, Northern Province, South Africa. Rene' is a 1999 graduate of Bloemontein Teachers College and

taught primary school for one year in South Africa before leaving to take a position in the Youth Department of Carnival Cruise Line.

Rene' moved to Beaumont in 2003 and was graduated from Lamar University with a Bachelor of General Studies this August.

While attending Lamar, Rene's criminal justice class, under the direction of Professor Jennifer Frisbie, collected over 45,000 books written in English to be sent to South Africa under a Rotary International Program between District 5890, Houston, and District 9300, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Rotary Clubs in Jefferson and Orange Counties have adopted this Program as their International Project for this year.

Rene' will tell us the details of the Program as well as the great need for the books in South Africa.

Head Table



INVOCATION
JACK CRAWFORD



PLEDGE
KEN DOLLINGER



4-WAY TEST
STEPHANIE WILLIAMS



GUEST INTRODUCTION
STEVE MCGRADE

From the chef: Meatloaf




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409-842-1913 • Fax: 409-842-5613
rotarybmt1@yahoo.com
Meets Wednesdays at Noon

Future Programs

September

22nd Dr. Jimmy Simmons
29th Representative Joe Deshotel

Make-ups

Monday:

No. Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69
Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:

Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.
Orange.....Sunset Grove
Port Neches.....Pompano Club

Wednesday:

Groves.....Pompano Club

Thursday:

Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:

Nederland.....Sanderson's

On-line: www.rotary5450.org/eclub
(limit 3 times in each quarter)

Program Review

Rotary was indeed privileged to have Dr. Carrol Thomas, BISD Superintendent of Schools, as our speaker. Dr. Thomas joined BISD in 1996 when there were many turbulent issues and crises surrounding our schools. The many accomplishments that Dr. Thomas and his staff have achieved during his tenure have led to school system that Beaumont is proud of.

Dr. Thomas' leadership has resulted in successfully guiding BISD through the implementation of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) and the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Dr. Thomas is one of only thirty superintendents in the nation to assist Secretary of Education Rod Paige in implementing the revolutionary No Child Left Behind initiative.

Dr. Thomas' motto of "No Excuses, Just Results" is clearly evident in the significant improvements in BISD since he began in 1996. The school district is in great shape. The 2004-2005 school year had its best start ever. BISD operating budget is approximately \$165 million. The fund balance is over \$20 million of which \$17.6 million is undesignated. There has been only one tax increase. BISD recently received a \$3.6 million grant for reading and writing initiatives. TAAS scores significantly increased. Curriculum has been adjusted due to the new TAKS testing. The exemption of at risk students decreased for 10% to 3.6%. The dropout rate has declined from 2.3% to 1.4%. Children involved in the gifted and talented program increased from 7% to 11%. All positions have been

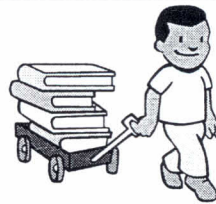
filled and only five (5) teachers have not been certified on the "No Child Left Behind" initiative.

Some of the programs available to children to enable them to have a successful academic career with BISD are (1) an extensive tutorial program; (2) a recapture program which allows student who did not pass the first semester to retest after additional tutorial to take a test in which if they pass receive credit for that semester; (3) an AVID program which simulates the college experience to prepare students for higher education; and (4) a Princeton Review course to provide students assistance in taking the SAT and PSAT tests.

Dr. Thomas also noted there are challenges that BISD is facing. One of those challenges is more parent involvement and also parent education. BISD also needs stronger booster clubs at the schools. School security is a concern at BISD. On September 14, school officials will be receiving training from the FBI and others on security issues and how best to deal with and prevent them. A major challenge facing BISD is the overcrowding of West side schools. As a result of this overcrowding, BISD lost 256 students. A bond issue is needed in order to alleviate this problem.

Dr. Thomas' program reminded us all what a debt of gratitude we owe to Dr. Thomas, his staff, and all the BISD personnel who provide a quality education to our children.

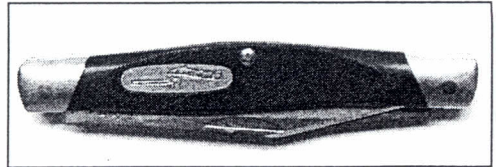
Thank you, **Jolene Ortego**, for arranging the program and for bringing the BISD Trustees as your guests.



Please remember to bring your books to donate for Africa to this week's meeting.

It would help us a lot if you could bring them in a box (or boxes) with the number of books written on the outside of the box(es).

Lost & Found



Have you been missing a pocket knife since the July 14th Rotary meeting? This one was found on one of the back tables.

Check with Sharon at this week's meeting or call the Rotary Office, 842-1913.

**Wathen,
DeShong
& Juncker**

L.L.P.

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Konica TOSHIBA SHARP

Welcome, New Members!

Please welcome these new members and a returning member who were inducted into the club on September 8th:

Charlie Jabbia

Owner,
N&T Construction Co.



Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, he is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University (BS). He and his wife Elaine are the parents of Lauren Ashley and Spencer Charles, and are members of St. Jude Thad-

deus Catholic Church. He enjoys playing golf, reading, history and the outdoors. Charlie was proposed by **Azim Keramati**.

Laurie Ritchel

Associate Athletic Director,
Lamar University



Born in Beaumont, she is a graduate of Lamar University (BBA). She and her husband Mark are the parents of Katie Kiker, and are members of Calder Baptist Church. She enjoys reading and traveling to

the Caribbean and Mexico. Laurie was proposed by **Terry Bourdier** and was a member of the Beaumont Spindletop Rotary Club.

Uliana Trylowsky

Executive Director,
Habitat for Humanity



Born in Edmonton, Canada, she is a graduate of the University of British Columbia (BA) and Carleton University (MA). She and her husband Jesse Doiron are the parents of Dennis David and Natalia Sophia,

and are members of St. Anne Catholic Church. She enjoys home and kids, swimming and cycling. Uliana was proposed by **Richard Bothel**.

Ed Turner

Owner - Publisher,
Beaumont Community Chronicle



Born in Stamford, Connecticut, he is a graduate of the University of Maryland (BS). He is the father of Jason and Adam, and is a member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. He

Birthdays

15th Nancy Carlisle (02)

Owner,
Quality Care Sitter Service



Born in Beaumont, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband Norman are the parents of Patty, and are members of First Christian Church. She enjoys reading, travel, fishing and sewing.

15th Russ Schultz (99)

Dean, College of Fine Arts
& Communication,
Lamar University



Born in Newark, New Jersey, he is a graduate of Eastman School of Music, the University of Memphis and the University of North Texas. He and his wife Susan are the parents of Jennifer, and are

members of Temple Emanuel. He enjoys playing golf and plays a mean trombone. Russ is a Paul Harris Fellow

15th John Thomasson (04)

Human Resources Director,
Brock Enterprises



Born in Douglas, Arizona, he is a graduate of the University of Arizona. He and his wife Donda are the parents of Elise Carol and Melanie Jan. He enjoys playing golf, running and martial arts.

enjoys playing golf, scuba diving and fishing. Ed was proposed by **Rodney Martin** and was a member of the Rotary Club of Charleston, South Carolina.

Guy Goodson

Partner,
Germer and Gertz



Born in San Angelo, he is a graduate of the University of Texas (BA) and Southern Methodist University (JD). He and his wife Kimberley are the parents of Mary Claire and William Neil, and

are members of St. Stephens Episcopal Church. He enjoys hunting and fishing. Guy was proposed by **Maurine Gray** and was a member of our club from 1995 until 2001.

18th Becky Mason (00)

Safety/Human Resources Director,
Mason Construction



Born in Beaumont, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband **Chuck** are the parents of Chad and Kristin, and are members of First Christian Church. She enjoys travel and music.

18th Mary Parmer (94)

Director of Adult Ministries,
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



Born in Brookhaven, Mississippi, she attended Mississippi State University and Loyola University. She is the mother of Jason and Lauren, and is a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. She enjoys

gardening and hiking.

19th Beverly Hatcher (90)

President,
Golden Triangle Minority Business Council



Born in Wellington, Kansas, she is a graduate of Wichita State University. She and her husband Stanley are the parents of Breck, LaTye and James, and are members of Calvary Baptist Church. She

enjoys reading, travel and watching the news.

20th Donna Ferchak (02)

President/CEO,
Fairway Management & Rentals



Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, she is attending Lamar Institute. She and her husband Richard are the parents of Ashlyn, Ralph, Haylee, Dick and Amy. She enjoys playing golf, cross stitching, reading

and travel.

20th Jerry Johnson (55)

Retired Physician



Born in Dallas, he is a graduate of University of Texas School of Medicine. He and his wife Suzanne are the parents of Sydney, Ann, Amy and **Jamie**, and are members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

Jerry is a Paul Harris Fellow.

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Program Spotlight: Stroke Rehabilitation
Program Director - Linda Smith, M.D.