



# THE BARKER

## ROTARY CLUB OF EDINA



*Celebrate*

### Rotary Holiday Party is tonight, Dec. 17, at the ECC

Happy holidays! Join us in celebrating the holiday season at the **Rotary Club of Edina Holiday Party from 6 to 8:30 p.m. today, Wednesday, Dec. 17**, at the Edina Country Club. There will be heavy appetizers served and a cash bar. Come and enjoy music as you get in the holiday spirit with your fellow Rotarians! Guests are welcome to attend the party. Cost is \$18 for each guest. Members will be billed for any guests on the Quarter 3 invoice, which will be sent out in January.

**There is no Rotary Club of Edina meeting on Thursday, Dec. 18**, so the party counts as the meeting for this week. Please make sure to sign in at the Rotary check-in table on your way into the party. Registration for the party ended on Dec. 12.

If you have questions, please contact Barbara Born or Jeff Ohe. Hope to see you there!

**The next regular Rotary Club of Edina meeting is Thursday, Jan. 8.**



### Jan. 8, 2014 Meeting Assignments

Greeters	Heather Hansen, Larry Doty & Ron Kalich
Front Desk	Steven Veker
Invocation	Michael Braun
Guest Introductions	Jody Kern
Barker	Bob Perkins
Thank the Speaker	John Solberg

### Last chance to donate gifts to Rotary Holiday Giving Program

Season's greetings Rotarians!

Ms. Claus has been AMAZED by the generosity this year with so many of you donating wonderful gifts and cash at the past two Rotary meetings! You still have time to donate gifts or make cash donations to the Rotary Club of Edina Holiday Giving Program! Rotarian Jean Morrison is spearheading the Holiday Giving Program, and asks that members bring UNWRAPPED gifts for children of any age (infant all the way through teens) as well as gifts for moms, dads, and families. Ms. Claus will go shopping for gifts if you don't have the time and instead want to make a cash donation. **There is one last chance to contribute—at the Holiday Party tomorrow, Wednesday, Dec. 17.**



This year, the organizations benefiting from the Edina Rotary Holiday Giving Program are:

- **VEAP**—a non-profit, social service agency that assists low-income families in Bloomington, Edina, Richfield, and south Minneapolis.
- **Oasis for Youth**—a resource center for homeless that houses youth in Bloomington, Edina, and Richfield.

THANK YOU to everyone who has shown their holiday spirit by giving so generously to those in need in our communities!

For more information, contact Jean Morrison at [jean@jeanmorrisonhr.com](mailto:jean@jeanmorrisonhr.com). Thank you!

### New Duty Roster available

The new Duty Roster, detailing meeting assignments for January through June 2015, was sent out the first week in December. If you did not receive a Duty Roster, please contact Jen Garske, or go to [www.edinarotary.org](http://www.edinarotary.org) and log in, then go to "View Club Documents," and you will find the Duty Roster in the "Meeting Assignments" folder.

4801 W. 50th St • Edina, MN 55424  
Jennifer Garske, Club Administrator

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

• [www.edinarotary.org](http://www.edinarotary.org)

• [www.rotary5950.org](http://www.rotary5950.org)

## In Review

Dec. 11, 2014

## By Sue Spalding

Everyone was greeted by lots of cheer, jingling bells, and the room felt extremely festive with many contributing to the Holiday Giving Program. President **Jeff Ohe** had to ask several times for everyone to take their seats. No one was listening because they were having too much fun.

We were all greeted warmly by **Bob Gubrud** and **Greg Hanks**, along with **Audri Schwarz** and **Bob Stehlik** at the front desk. President **Jeff Ohe** called the meeting to order. **Keith Benson** provided the invocation with some very special Christmas thoughts followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Jack Kennefick** welcomed all of our guests: Luther Amundson, guest of **Jeff Ohe** and **Kris Maser's** husband; Terry Moore, guest of **Paul Peterson**; Greg Yoch, guest and son of **Ted Yoch**; Royce Pavelka, prospective member; Shelly Loberg, guest of **Scott Neal**; and **Sam Thompson** had three guests, his lovely wife, Kim; oldest daughter, Rae; and a Rotary Exchange Student from Thailand, Nattaurat Tintukairi.

**Jeff Ohe** reminded all of us that the Holiday Party is next Wednesday evening, Dec. 18, at the Edina Country Club, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be no regular meeting next week. The Petersen family will entertain all of us with music at the party, so be sure to attend. Jeff also thanked all of the behind-the-scenes people that make our club and club meetings run so smoothly. (We all know these are the people that make everything happen!) Jennifer Garske, club administrator; **Patti Ellingson-Solheim**, club finances; **Audri Schwarz**, front desk; **Mary Hustad** and **Barbara Born**, club meetings; and Aaron Klein, our videographer.

**Jean Morrison**, dressed beautifully as a holiday stocking, encouraged all of us to still contribute to the gift-giving drive or donate cash so that additional items can be purchased.

**Josh Sprague** introduced a student speaker from Edina High School, who gave us an update on what he's doing this year.

**Brad Hepp** inducted a new member, **Amir Gharbi**. He was sponsored by **David Clynes**. Amir has an impressive background and we are honored to have him join our club.

**Bob Solheim** gave a very special presentation to **John Flynn** in honor of his late father, **Robert "Mick" Flynn**. John was given the crystal and major donor pin in honor of his parents, and Bob shared thoughts on Mick and Dorothy's dedication to Rotary and financial commitment to The Rotary Foundation.

**Past President Steve Slyce** came forward and announced the nominations for the Rotary Club of Edina Board of Directors for next Rotary year, 2015-2016. He also congratulated **President Jeff** on his work so far. Nominations for next year's Board are:

- **Sue Spalding**—The Rotary Foundation
- **Ken Andersen**— Membership (Retention)
- **Keith Benson**— Community Service (Grants)
- **Mark Jessen**—Public Relations
- **John Flynn**—Board Secretary, who will become President for the Rotary Year 2018-2019

**Steve** made a motion to approve the five nominees. Motion was seconded and approved by membership.

**Kaylin Eidsness** then introduced our speaker, Beth Burns from the Minnesota Zoo. Beth is the vice president of external relations. She oversees many aspects of the zoo including marketing, sales, education, programs, government affairs, etc.

Beth thinks she has the coolest job in the world. Out her office windows she gets to see snow monkeys and pumas, and she hoped that her presentation made us all want to go back to the zoo!

The Minnesota Zoo was founded in 1978 and is a state zoo, which is not common. Its current mission is to connect people and animals to the natural world and to save wildlife. The zoo is now organized by eco-systems and it is a very effective way to "see" the zoo. The zoo is one of Minnesota's cultural assets with around 1.2 million visitors each year. There are more than 4,700 animals at the zoo. It has a budget of around \$25 million annually, and has a \$146 million dollar annual impact on the state's economy. The zoo supports 1,738 jobs.

The zoo is a conservation leader in the state and around the world. They spend a lot of time educating the public each year on conservation. Beth told a great story about Skipperling butterflies. There used to be 60 million of these butterflies in the world and now the butterfly is believed to be extinct in the wild. But the zoo is trying to help reintroduce the butterfly into the wild. Beth described the zoo as "smart fun" and "engaging to inspire."

The economics of the zoo are not always fun. They did have layoffs in the fall. Last year the awful cold reduced the number of visitors, and the costs of care for the animals increased because of the cold. But the zoo is working off of a new strategic plan with a sustainable budget model. They will be building new exhibits and adding some additional "normal zoo animals," such as lions and giraffes. Beth's talk was fascinating and definitely enticing. I hope everyone visits the zoo soon.

**Will Steinke** thanked Beth and let her know that a donation to VEAP will be made in her name. She also donated a pair of passes to the zoo and a stuffed animal to our Holiday Giving Program. Thank you Beth!

## ROTARY YEAR 2014-2015 — OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President **Jeff Ohe**  
Secretary **San Asato**  
Membership (Recruitment) **Josh Sprague**

President-Elect **Jennifer Bennerotte**  
Club Service **Barbara Born**  
Membership (Retention) **Michael Stanzak**  
Community Service (Grants) **Michael Kallas**

Past President **Steve Slyce**  
Public Relations **Doug Johnson**  
Youth Service **Heather Hansen**  
Community Service (Projects) **Mary Swendsen**

Treasurer **Ann Platt**  
The Rotary Foundation **Will Steinke**  
International Service **Gary Pedersen**

## Checking in again with ... Youth Exchange

This week we hear from another outbound Rotary Youth Exchange student:

### Sarah Aydinalp

#### Youth Exchange student in Brazil

Sarah shares: I'm having an absolutely amazing exchange in Brazil so far; a large majority of the reason being my loving host family and friends. My school year just finished up and I was definitely sad to say goodbye to all my goofy classmates, but I have another school year to look forward to. It's been a big adjustment to go from a huge urban city to a town that neighboring cities define as "the farm," but I'm getting to see both sides of the spectrum. Not only that, but I'm learning how much back home I have to be thankful for. One of the highlights of this year has been traveling to Pantanal and Bonito during the month of November. There, I had experiences with nature like I've never had before. I snorkeled for the first time and got to see animals up close and personal in easily the most tranquil and beautiful places I've ever been in my life. Thank you all so much for making this opportunity possible!



—Jean Morrison, Youth Exchange outbound student counselor

## Upcoming Events and Schedule

- Dec. 17 **Rotary Club of Edina Holiday Party**, Edina Country Club, 6 to 8:30 p.m., appetizers and cash bar, cost for guests is \$18.
- Dec. 18 **No Rotary Club of Edina meeting** due to the Holiday Party Dec. 17
- Dec. 22 **Edina Rotary Goes to Motown!**, Orpheum Theater, Minneapolis, 7:30 p.m., Rotary members and guests who purchased tickets will attend "Motown—The Musical." Contact Michael Stanzak for more info.
- Dec. 25 **No Rotary Club of Edina meeting**
- Jan. 1 **No Rotary Club of Edina meeting**
- Jan. 7 **Edina Rotary Vocational Development Group**, 5:30 to 7 p.m., meets on the first Wednesday of each month

Jan. 17

to provide Club members the opportunity to share their profession, network, encourage professional development, and foster ethical business practices. Contact Kip Peterson for more information.

**District 5950 Mid-Term Assembly**, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen. All Rotarians are welcome to attend this training and networking session to re-energize for the rest of the Rotary year. Club presidents and board members are especially encouraged to attend. Registration due to Club Administrator Jennifer Garske by Jan. 6.

Jan. 31

**Rotary Club of Edina Bowling Night**, Tuttle's Eat, Play, Bowl! in Hopkins, mark your calendars for the annual Rotary bowling night. Stay tuned for info about the event.

**Blue** is for special Rotary Club of Edina events.  
**Purple** is for District 5950 events.  
**Orange** is for Rotary International events.

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