



THE BARKER

ROTARY CLUB OF EDINA

Jan. 14, 2016 Meeting Assignments

Front Desk	Heather Hansen
Front Desk Admin	Jennifer Garske
Greeters	Sonja Tengdin, Renee Harberts & John Mazzara
Invocation, Pledge, Four-Way Test	Les Jones
Introduce Guests	Jim Roberts
<i>The Barker</i> writer	Luther Amundson
Introduce the Speaker	John Flynn
Thank the Speaker	Paul Mooty

Program: Tom Streitz and Keith Simons of Twin Cities RISE, "The Economic Imperative for Diversity Engagement of a Growing Workforce"

Menu: Hot ham and cheese with tomato soup or tuna Nicoise salad

Jan. 21, 2016 Meeting Assignments

Front Desk	Dan Hare
Greeters	Skip Thomas, Kenny Smith & Lisa Walker
Invocation, Pledge, Four-Way Test	Kevin Kalal
Introduce Guests	Mitch Robinson
<i>The Barker</i> writer	Chuck Agan
Introduce the Speaker	Patti Ellingson-Solheim
Thank the Speaker	Jean Morrison

Proposed for Membership

The Rotary Club of Edina's Board of Directors in December approved the applicants below for membership:

Meg Boehne

Classification: Luxury Real Estate
Sponsor: Scott MacDonald

Katie Wanninger Smith

Classification: Marketing
Sponsor: Les Wanninger

Written objections to the applications must be submitted before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, to Rotary Club of Edina, 4801 W. 50th St., Edina, MN 55424.

In review

Jan. 7, 2015

By Mary Younggren

Our Edina Noon Rotarians were out in full force to greet the New Year! **President Jennifer Bennerotte** received her usual ovation as she called the meeting to order. Though our honorable President professes to nervousness, it is not apparent to her audience. Jennifer polled the members for New Year's resolutions. **Dave Hatzung** and **Rick Carlson** were the only ones to raise their hands, to say they were planning to return to "The Sands," having reverted to their "Dean & Frank" alter egos. President Jennifer did not expect many to raise their hands with resolutions, because we are all so successful!

She proceeded to review our club's resolutions/goals for the year, proudly reporting significant progress! Edina Rotarians "crushed" the \$100,000 fall Fundraiser goal thanks to generous club members, and the event chairs **John Flynn** and **Jody Kern**. Rumor has it there was a "John Flynn sighting" at the meeting...

Another goal required by Rotary International President K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran was to get 50 percent of our members registered on the RI website. Thanks to the efforts of **Marty Kupper**, we've met that goal, too! (**Bob Hildreth** is trying to take the credit for that though.)

Another goal that a year ago seemed would be difficult was establishing an Interact club. **Josh Sprague**, **Sam Thompson** and **Nate Wenner** made that happen. Last month, we received the charter for the Interact Club of Edina at Edina High School!

There's more work to do before the end of the Rotary year. **President Jennifer** shared remaining goals of completing our signature projects, raising \$80,000 for The Rotary Foundation's annual campaign, and growing our membership to 170 by focusing recruitment on race, gender, those under 30 and people in the medical and retail classifications. It's an impressive list and our President is leading the charge!

President Jenn acknowledged those helping with the meeting; greeters **Scott Tankenoff**, **David Aase** and **Raj Kumar**; **Greg Hanks** and Jennifer Garske at the front desk; **Susan Johnson** gave the invocation; **Erick Ries** handled guest introduction, yours truly; and **Jean Morrison** thanked the speaker.

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

www.rotary.org

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• www.rotary5950.org

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Susan Johnson gave a stunning goodbye message to 2015 and thank you for the club's kindness in the passing of her dad just before Christmas (our sympathies Susan), and a strong welcome to bring in 2016. After the Pledge and the Four-way Test, **Erick Ries** introduced our honored guests:

- **David Clynes** brought Len Slade.
- Our speaker Kathryn Nordberg brought executive director for Erik's Ranch & Retreats, Keri Taylor, as well as Erik's Ranch member Maddie.
- **Axel Steuer** brought his wife, Lori, as her "thirteenth day of Christmas gift."
- **Josh Sprague's** guests were Amanda Powell and Jonathan Powell of Pedia Pals, and Mohammed Amin.

Mrs. Santa's bells were ringing again as **Jean Morrison** announced the significant impact our club made for homeless youth at Christmas. Our donations of \$1,167, over 100 gifts and 56 gift cards helped the youth at Oasis for Youth and VEAP have a wonderful Christmas experience. Mrs. Santa promised not ring the bells until next year.

Speaking of bells, the esteemed past DG **Dan Hallberg** then shared our club's stellar results ringing for the Salvation Army this year. Our club spent five days ringing, including a day on behalf of Jerry Potter. On just that day alone, our club raised more than \$2,100, including a generous \$1,000 donation from **Paul Mooty** (thank you Paul!). Dan recognized the many Rotarians who helped this year and reported that our club raised more than \$5,100 this year, and have raised more than \$30,000 over the years we've been ringing for the Salvation Army at Lunds & Byerly's here in Edina. We were the KOOL 108 "Ringers of the Day," and because of that, **Jennifer** drew lucky **Paul Peterson** as winner of his very own "My Pillow" from the radio station! That'll come in handy for Paul's naptime!

The club voted on and carried the motion to two changes to our bylaws. The first will allow proposed members to be posted online as an alternative to *The Barker*. The second change allows us to offer honorary memberships to past Rotary Youth Exchange students and other TRF program participants.

President Jennifer noted that **Amir Gharbi** was featured recently in the *Sun-Current* regarding his term of service on the Edina school board! Congrats Amir!

Jody Kern won the Powerball ticket from **President Jennifer**, (she promised to share the winnings) for accurately guessing that

the program sponsor—who lived in Vermont before Minnesota, has four kids in four different schools, is a professional vocalist and worked for the Von Trapp family in his youth—is in fact, our own **Bob Harvey**!

Bob introduced our speaker, Kathryn Nordberg, who is the CEO and founder of Erik's Ranch & Retreats, a nonprofit that benefits persons with autism. Erik's Ranch is our signature project this Rotary year.

Kathryn shared with us that autism diagnoses have increased dramatically from 2 in 10,000 24 years ago, to 1 in 50 in Minnesota today. Though there is no true explanation for the increase, this means a significant percentage of our population are on the autism spectrum. Kathryn conceived and founded the organization in 2008, as a response to the need for her son Erik, a person on the autism spectrum, and others like him to have meaningful living, working, social and recreational environments.

Erik's Ranch & Retreats has two "destination" locations where guests can stay that are staffed by these young adults. Not only are both locations home to young adults with autism, but what sets Erik's Ranch & Retreats apart is that these young adults operate boutique-style guest accommodations at the Retreat in Edina (eight guest rooms), and Erik's Ranch in Paradise Valley, Montana. All member jobs support the guests while they stay and are suited to each member's talents and expertise as tour guides, concierge staff, bakers, sous chefs, gardeners, artists- and musicians-in-residence—whatever their passion.

We had the privilege of hearing from Maddie, a member of the Edina facility. Maddie did a beautiful job of sharing her life experience with us, from the challenges she had being "different" all through school, to her enrollment at Minnesota Life College here in Richfield and subsequent placement for a career at Erik's Retreat after graduation. She leads a productive life working at a farm in Belle Plain teaching kids how to ride horses, gives tours at several places such as Canterbury and the Promenade in Edina, and lives at Erik's Retreat! Hearing this story was an uplifting way to start the New Year.

WHAT WE CAN DO: Kathryn encouraged us to take a tour! Visit <http://www.eriksranh.org/tour-with-us/> for more information.

Jean Morrison graciously thanked our speaker and **President Jennifer** closed our meeting at 1:30 p.m. with a great quote from Helen Keller about resolutions: "Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties."

ROTARY YEAR 2015–2016 — OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President **Jennifer Bennerotte**
Secretary **John Flynn**

Membership—Recruitment **Josh Sprague**
Community Service—Local Funding **Keith Benson**

President-Elect **Ann Platt**
Club Service **Barbara Born**

Membership—Retention **Ken Andersen**

Past President **Jeff Ohe**
Public Image **Mark Jessen**

Youth Service **Sam Thompson**
Community Service—Projects **Mary Swendsen**

Treasurer **San Asato**

The Rotary Foundation **Sue Spalding**
International Service **Gary Pedersen**

Notes from EHS Interact

Interact
Rotary Sponsored Club



This month our Interact club's theme is Hunger. We will be going to Feed My Starving Children, and one meeting we will be hearing from fellow Edina High School student Nina Sokol, who has been researching hunger for her Passion project. On Jan. 16 four of our club members will be attending an Interact function to meet with other Interact clubs and Rotary clubs.

—Kelly Jessen, EHS Interact Club



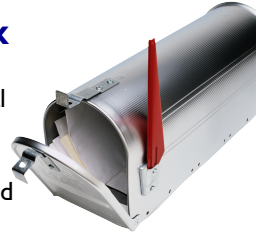
Members of the Edina High School Interact Club took part in the Rotary Club of Edina's Salvation Army bell ringing in December. They joined Josh Sprague and his children (shown above left with an Interact member) to ring Dec. 23, and brought in donations with enthusiastic singing and dancing at Lunds & Byerlys on France Avenue in Edina.



Rotary Club of Edina mailbox

Thank you so very much for the beautiful floral arrangement you sent for my dad's services. I have also appreciated the messages of support I have received these last few weeks—so proud to be part of the No. 1 Club in the Universe!

Susan Johnson



In Memoriam...

We are sad to announce that Rotarian Marty Kupper's mother, Norma Kupper, 90, passed away Jan. 11.

Norma resided in Arizona, and was formerly of Edina. She was preceded in death by husband, Martin, and grandson, Brian. She is survived by sons, Marty (Debbie) and Charlie (Mary); four grandchildren; and two great-grandsons. Norma survived cancer for 60 years, so memorials are preferred to the American Cancer Society. Private interment at Lakewood Cemetery. Funeral service is Friday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m., with visitation Thursday, Jan. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. and one hour before the service, all at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel, West 50th Street and Highway 100.

Please keep Marty's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Upcoming Events and Schedule

- Jan. 16 **Rotary District 5950 Mid-Term Assembly**, Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Dr., Brooklyn Park, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., celebrate the midpoint of the Rotary year and get inspired for the second half. Registration has closed. Contact Diane Confer at 763-553-1604 for more info.
- Jan. 28 **Prospective Member Day**, Rotary Club of Edina meeting, bring a friend or colleague to learn more about Rotary and our club.
- Jan. 30 **Bowling Night**, Park Tavern, 3401 Louisiana Ave. S., St. Louis Park, 7 p.m., bring your significant other to a night of bowling, door prizes and great footwear! Registration emails will be sent out this week. For more info, contact Mark Jessen.

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