

EDINA

MINNESOTA DISTRICT 5950 USA FOUNDED 1957



# THE BARKER

## ROTARY CLUB OF EDINA

### June 12, 2014 Meeting Assignments

Greeters	Ken Andersen & Joe Arends
Front Desk	Tim Fargo
Invocation	Sam Thompson
Guest Introduction	Heather Hansen
Barker	Jack Kennefick
Program Host	Wooj Byun
Thank the Speaker	Tim Murphy

**Program:** Dr. Dan Saltzman, pediatric surgeon with the University of Minnesota, "Project Stealth"

**Menu:** Pot roast with mashed potatoes or trio of salads (chicken, tuna, and egg)

### A Note from the President

My year as President will soon come to a close, and I want to thank all of you for your support during my term. The year has gone by very fast and while I am sad to say I will miss leading this great Club, I am excited about our new future leaders and the years ahead.



My last official meeting is this week, June 12, and our transition meeting is June 19. I urge all of you to attend both meetings if possible. The month of June wraps up with our picnic on Wednesday, June 25.

—Steve

### New Duty Roster sent out this week

The July-December 2014 Duty Roster of Rotary meeting assignments was emailed and mailed out this week. The new schedule starts with the July 10 meeting. Please let Club Administrator Jennifer Garske ([jengarskerotary@gmail.com](mailto:jengarskerotary@gmail.com)) know if you did not receive a Duty Roster. Thanks!

### In Review

June 5, 2014

#### By Matt Boockmeier

Thank you to the following Rotarians who helped assist with today's meeting:

Greeters: **Dan Mott** and **George Lancaster**  
Front desk: **Audri Schwarz** and **Roberto Moran**  
Invocation: **Skip Thomas**  
Guest/Visiting Rotarians intro: **Josh Sprague**  
Speaker introduction: **Scott MacDonald**  
Barker: **Matt Boockmeier**  
Thank the speaker: **Dan Mott** (pulling double duty)

Guests at the meeting were:

- Joe Graca, guest of **Mike Opitz**
- Steve Jecha, guest of **Mary Hustad**
- Joshua Roberts, guest of **Mary Hustad**
- Yevgeniy (Eugene) Drozdov, guest of **Mary Hustad**
- Mike Wolbrink, guest of **Gerry Norton**
- Jimmy Bennett, guest of **Josh Sprague**
- Anne Seberson, guest of **Barbara Born**
- Rebecca Howes, guest of **Barbara Born**
- Cliff Anderson, visiting Rotarian from Minneapolis #9

#### Time: 12:33:03

Soon to be deposed **President Steve Slyce** started the meeting promptly at 12:30:03 p.m. with an amazing screen shot sent all the way from the Rotary International Convention in Sydney, Australia, showing just how popular **Tim Murphy** really is (and wife, Cindy) across the world of Rotary. In addition, in next month's pull-out section was a feature on the parenting skills of **Jeff** and **Alley Ohe** (well, maybe it was a fake cover shoot) but really: who is watching all those kids?

#### Time 12:36:14

We were introduced to two outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students who are both seniors at Edina High School. Sarah Aydinalp will be headed to Denmark in late July and Paulina Porcha is headed to Brazil in early August to spend a year immersing themselves in the culture of these two countries. They are very excited and wanted to show their appreciation to our Club for helping make a program like this possible. Thank you to **Terry Stevens** for helping get Sarah and Paulina to the lunch meeting. Best of luck ladies!

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)

**Time 12:44:54**

**Axel Steuer** gave his classification talk and told a fascinating story of his youth during the East German occupation and how his earliest days were of being transported on a rail car out of the occupied territory in Poland, and the harrowing journey during the winter of 1952, which led to him being put on a transport ship bound for America. After a rough ride through the north Atlantic, he arrived at Ellis Island and his family's new home. He mentioned stops along the way in Trestletown, Pennsylvania, before settling with his single mother and siblings in Long Beach, California, learning English along the way. His gratitude will always be to the Salvation Army for the care and compassion they showed his family throughout the journey.

He graduated from Occidental College and eventually Harvard with Masters in Divinity. He realized that perhaps the ministry was not for him when it was determined that many of the first marriage ceremonies he performed ended in divorce; so he moved to teaching! Eventually he landed as the president of Gustavus Adolphus College for 10 years, followed by another 11 years at Illinois College before moving into semi-retirement here in Edina. He hopes to continue his service with Rotary after having been a member in the past. Welcome Axel and his wife, Loreli, both of whom are past Paul Harris Fellows. (NOTE: you can also call him Alex...it's a toss-up).

**Time: 12:52:13**

Representative **Ron Erhardt** provided the details and backing that helped to bring the initial funding forward in the Minnesota House to secure the Edina Veteran's Memorial. Through the hard work of Rep. Erhardt, the committee was able to secure \$225,000 in dollars provided it too can raise another \$225,000 to finish the memorial. Thank you to Rep. Erhardt and others who have helped make this important project come to fruition.

**Time 12:56:42**

We also received an update from the RARE Committee, consisting of **Joe Hayes** and **Bob Stehlik**. The RARE acronym stands for Rotarians Assisting Rotarians. They provide an essential service when it is determined that Club members need to be made aware of information pertaining to current and past Edina Rotarians, families, or when we may be able to provide a helping hand to one another. This is an invaluable service and we thank Bob and Joe for their service throughout the years.

**Time: 1:00:17**

This week's program speaker, Jeff Tollefson, is the director of Genesys Works, a local non-profit that works with economically disadvantaged youth. They help the youth develop skill sets that they can use in today's technology working world. They then

partner with local companies who have found that helping young people at an early stage see the benefits of education and working hard to be productive member of the team can only benefit them later in life.

Genesys Works was founded by Rafael Alvarez in Houston and was brought to the attention of a group that Jeff belongs to here in the Twin Cities—Social Venture Partners. And through his involvement, he began to take an interest in Genesys Works.

Jeff's career started many years earlier as a venture capitalist and, after having success working in private equity, he co-founded Crescendo Partners with a worldwide presence. He was highly successful in providing early-stage capital to some 30 companies in the telecom field. But with the telecom field and the ensuing economic crises of the late 2000s, he saw much of his paper wealth evaporate. He decided that perhaps there was more to his life than making money on paper. Maybe this sudden correction in the market called for more of a correction in life. So he set out on a journey to rediscover that which he was truly meant to do, and after several months of searching (including a borrowed RV trip through Montana) and reading a paper by Michael Josephson called "What Will Matter," he believes he has found that through Genesys Works.

Today Genesys Works is flourishing, not only here in the Twin Cities, but all across the United States. The numbers are staggering. This year they had 720 students apply. They interviewed 465 and selected 280 to participate in a six-week training program. Then the students moved on to the employers who had selected them. This is a celebration when these young men and women find out the companies they are paired with. It seems almost like the NFL Draft because their dreams are coming true. The program's results thus far are staggering—97 percent of participants have enrolled in college courses; 87 percent have shown a solid persistency rate with college curriculum; 96 percent of the participants across the country are students of color who generally come from some of the most economically disadvantaged parts of urban areas. These students spend a half day in school learning the basics they need to move forward in life and the other half day is spent in a professional work environment, where they spend 1,000 hours developing their skills.

Congratulations to Jeff and the entire team at Genesys Works for assisting these young people in preparing for a brighter future than they might otherwise have had!

**Time 1:30:15**

Soon-to-be-deposed **President Slyce** ended the meeting promptly at 1:30:15 (he was 15 seconds over the allotted time).

### ROTARY YEAR 2013–2014 – OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Steve Slyce  
Secretary Ann Platt  
Public Relations Doug Johnson

President-Elect Jeff Ohe  
Membership (Retention) Michael Stanzak  
Community Service (Projects) Tom Bach  
Community Service (Grants) Michael Kallas

Past President Scott MacDonald  
Membership Mary Hustad  
International Service John Flynn  
The Rotary Foundation Will Steinke

Treasurer Jennifer Bennerotte  
Club Administration Marty Kupper  
Youth Service Heather Hansen



Congratulations to Edina High School seniors Rebecca and Michelle on winning the Rotary Club of Edina scholarships for the 2013-2014 school year! Rotarian Mike Opitz presented the students with their awards at the EHS Scholarship Breakfast. Rebecca is the daughter of Edina Rotarian Michael Braun.

## Upcoming Events and Schedule

- June 19 **Transition Day** meeting, Edina Country Club, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.
- June 25 **Annual Rotary Picnic**, Centennial Lakes Park, Edina.
- June 26 No regular Rotary Club of Edina meeting
- June 30 Third annual **Steve Rummier Day**, Target Field, Minneapolis, pre-game event including food, silent auction, live music, and cash bar at 5:30 p.m., game at 7:10 p.m. Ticket and sponsorship info available at [www.SteveRummierHopeFoundation.org](http://www.SteveRummierHopeFoundation.org)
- July 24 **Prospective member** meeting, Edina Country Club, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., Rotarians are encouraged to bring someone who is interested in learning more about our Club

**Blue** is for special Rotary Club of Edina events.

**Purple** is for District 5950 events.

**Orange** is for Rotary International events.

## Meet our new member...

*In the spirit of getting to know our new members, the Barker will feature a profile and photo of new members periodically. This week, we meet:*

**Name:** Colleen Simpson

**Classification:** Foundation Administration

**What was your first job?** Straight out of high school, trying to raise money to put myself through college, I was hired as a secretary at a brand new manufacturing plant. At 18, I was the only female employee! I worked with engineers, designers, accountants and skilled laborers. My nearly retired, Detroit-based boss and his wife took me for my first airplane ride over the green fields of Iowa in their private plane. With the help of scholarships, student loans and my paychecks, I began college the following summer as a first generation college student. I continued to work during the school year and throughout the summers, earning more scholarships and taking out more student loans to complete a pre-med degree in 3-1/2 years.

**Who was your first role model and why?** My mother. She had the spirit of an angel, a beautiful singing voice, and the

most contagious, genuine laugh. From my earliest memories, she coached and encouraged, applauded and often said, "The sky is the limit. You can be and do anything you desire." Hard working, an extremely dedicated Christian, and wise beyond belief, she was always helping others, loving others and loved by everyone. To her four daughters, she was a cherished friend and saint. She left us at age 56, and to this day, hers was the longest funeral procession to the cemetery that anyone had ever seen.

**Why did you want to join Rotary?** To meet new people, build relationships and expand my mission to serve others. I was a member of St. Louis Park Rotary for several years before being recruited for a new position in California.

**What do you like best about being part of the Rotary Club of Edina?** Renewing friendships with people I knew while at Park Nicollet Foundation for 15 years. Meeting new people who are already becoming friends. Being part of Rotary's worldwide impact of changing and improving lives.

**What one piece of advice do you offer other business leaders?** Continue to reach out and give of yourself. Make a difference...every day!



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