



Moccasin Flower

Official Publication of the Rotary Club of Rochester, Minnesota
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Club No. 2164

District No. 5960

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VITAL STATISTICS

MEMBERSHIP: 237

AMBASSADORS: **Bob Sheridan**, Venice Nokomis, FL; **Diane Ilstrup**, Kona HI & Kona Sunrise X2; **Glenn Miller**, Venice Nokomis FL; **Bari Amadio**, Lahaina Maui, HI; **Lorie Luedke**, **Mark Dripps**, **Mike and Judy O'Fallon**, PETS, Dubuque, IA

Introducing Elizabeth Karsell

Rochester Rotary's new administrative director

It is with great excitement that I begin as Administrative Director of The Rotary Club of Rochester. I look forward to getting to know each of you and to working closely with your membership to further the successes of your organization. I have much to learn from Lois and will work hard to make the transition in the office as smooth as possible.



Most of my childhood was spent on a hobby farm between Rochester and

Stewartville. I attended Stewartville schools until we moved to Neptune Beach, Florida, for my high school years. The Midwestern life-style called me back for college at snowy St. Olaf in Northfield, Minnesota. I graduated with a liberal arts degree and a major in religion.

My husband, Steve, and I have lived elsewhere but returned to Rochester in 1999. We have two boys: Read (12) and Seth (9). We enjoy time together at the lake, watching the boys play soccer and hockey, and being with extended family. My personal hobbies include reading and tennis.

Prior to having children, I worked as Executive Director for the Glencoe, MN Area Chamber of Commerce. This non-profit organization worked hard to sustain and grow a small Midwestern community of about 5,000 people. I also served as part-time economic development assistant for the community. When we returned to Rochester in 1999, I made motherhood my number one job and held various part-time jobs. Most recently, I have enjoyed working with staff and students at Ben Franklin Elementary as their library paraprofessional.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
April 4	Linda Bonow	St Paul, MN
	Alan Sessler	Boston, MA
	Jim Frye	Topeka, Kansas
April 5	Bill Ryan	Minneapolis, MN
April 7	Jack Spittell	Baltimore, MD
April 8	Ingrid Neel	Kuressaare, Estonia
April 11	Chris Holloway	Kansas City, MO
April 17	Janice Farris	Ephrata, WA
	Jane Piepgras	Austin, MN
April 19	John Hunziker	Mankato, MN
April 20	Gail Sauter	Owatonna, MN
April 22	Steve Lehmkuhle	Dayton, OH
April 26	Art Kennel	Gap, PA
	Bob Sheridan	St Charles, MN
April 27	Dan O'Neil	Rochester, MN
April 29	Paul Olander	Morris, MN
	Jeff Allman	Hammond IN
April 30	Don Scholz	Cleveland, OH

If we have missed your birthday, please let us know.

Rotary has been significant in my life in several ways. My dad has been a Rotarian as long as I can remember and has set an excellent example of service for our family. I have tried to incorporate service into my life, and encourage my children to do the same. Additionally, our family hosted a number of Rotary exchange students and friends of those students during my childhood. Those relationships taught me a great deal about other cultures and the world we share. Finally, Rotary is certainly well-respected in Rochester, and I appreciate the positive impact the organization is making on the community in which I live.

Let's do lunch this Thursday! It will be great to meet you and put a face to the name.

ROTARY NEWS

- If you still owe dues for this Rotary year, you should have received a notice by mail or email. Please try to take care of this promptly, Remember – mailing address is Rochester Rotary Club, PO Box 7566, Rochester MN 55906-7566.
- Thanks to all who helped with the meetings in March: Cashiers: **Chris Holloway, Janice Farris, Danae Ostern, Dana Funk**. Invocations: **Mark Neville, Sarah Burrington, Suzanne Dinusson, Major James Frye, Elizabeth Karsell**. Greeters: **Tank Sholem, Ray Johnson, Sue Johnson, Mary Jo Kelly, Josh Johnson, James Frye**. 4 Way Test: **John Brockman, Ashok Patel, Steve Rossello, Bill Wiktor, Sara Burrington**. Visitors Desk: **Walt Menning, Elif McCain, Jody Allen Crowe, Danae Ostern, Tank Sholem**. Introduce Visitors: **Leigh Johnson, Rick Lien, Phil Karsell**.
- We have received and accepted the resignation of **Bob Dahlstrom** with regrets. We thank Bob for his many years of service
- We send our deepest regrets to **Angie Rustad** whose father passed away recently.

Rotary Anniversaries

Chris Holloway	1 year
Lee Kendall	1 year
Armin Budimlic	1 year
Linda Hillenbrand	2 years
Jim Lundgren	3 years
Tom Bruckman	3 years
Bruce Ryan	3 years
Brenda Walker	4 years
Rick Sheldon	6 years
Ashok Patel	6 years
Dan O' Neil	7 years
Mark Dripps	8 years
Karen Erlenbusch	8 years
James Gibson	15 years (plus)
Ardell Brede	16 years
Don Harreld	19 years
Doug Rovang	21 years
John Spittell	22 years
Richard Hurt	32 years
Glenn Miller	52 years



Thank you for your continued service to our Club.

APRIL ROTARY CALENDAR

- April 7** **Kahler Hotel - Elizabethan Room**
- Tom Ryan, "County Parks & Critters"
- April 14** **Doubletree Hotel** - "Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic Awards Luncheon" Grants will be awarded from tournament proceeds. Our speaker will be Mark Lovelace, 1992 John Marshall grad who played in our tournaments
- April 21** **Kahler Hotel - Elizabethan Room**
- John Sloan, FAA Headquarters, "Commercial Space
Transportation: Now You Can Go"
- April 28** **Kahler Hotel - Heritage Hall - Bari Amadio**, "Rochester Arts Scene Newer/Non-Traditional Venues (Valued Associates Day)"

OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- April 4** **Channel One** - 6:00-8:00 pm; Volunteer sign-up is full - way to go!
- April 6** **Rotary Board of Directors Meeting** - 7:00 am; Directors Room, Kahler Hotel
- April 13** **Community Food Response** - Contact Glenn VanLaningham or Paul Bleimeyer
- April 27** **Rotary Information Meeting** - Noon - Directors Room, Kahler Hotel

LOOKING AHEAD

- May 21** **Progressive Dinner** - Look for invitations and information to be sent to your home

VALUED ASSOCIATES DAY

Thursday, April 28

Please invite, as your guest, a person or persons who work with you and are your valued associates. This is a great opportunity to share your Rotary experience with them.

Please sign up at an upcoming meeting or email Elizabeth if you plan to bring someone so we know how many guests to plan for.

From the desk of Karel Weigel, Rochester Rotary President



...And the March Winds Blew...AND, they blew in good news!

Following a Search Committee process that was both rigorous and disciplined, our search for a new Administrative Director for the Rochester Rotary Club has ended with the selection of Elizabeth Karsell. More than 40

resumes were submitted and reviewed to match with position requirements, 15 of those advanced to interview status, (though some withdrew their resume) and eight were then selected for interview, and from that three were chosen for second interviews. The final selection was based on the strength of the resume (prior experience), personal interviews with the search committee and recommendations from references. Elizabeth came through all of this undaunted, unbowed and eager to accept the challenges of the Rochester Rotary Club. A biographic sketch of Elizabeth Karsell appears elsewhere in the Moccasin Flower. **Welcome Elizabeth!**

As we welcome Elizabeth, we say **Auf wiedersehen, Lois**. Of course that translates not to good bye, but "until we meet again" which as a member of our club, we are able to do each week. It is impossible to thank Lois adequately for her willingness to step back into the role of Administrative Director, handle the business of Rotary and provide unfailing support to the board, committees and members. We have moved forward because of her willingness to do what she has always done best, make Rotary work for all of us.

Serving on the Search Committee were: Mark Dripps, Lorie Luedke, Christine Beech, Lorrie Swancutt, Dan Kelly, Bill Nietz, Bill Wiktor and Karel Weigel.

A proposal from the Doubletree Hotel to become the host site for weekly Rotary meetings prompted the Board to ask for a survey of members asking what we consider to be important factors in meeting location. To be completed by April 1, the survey responses will yield helpful, objective data as background for a final vote of the membership.

Reports at Rotary meetings and periodic information in the Moccasin Flower highlight the World Community Service involvement by the three Rochester Clubs and Zumbrota (forming Southeast Minnesota World Community Service Committee). The dollars Rotarians contribute to Rotary International Foundation help fund these international projects and provide funding to Vocational Training Teams (new term for Group Study Exchange). In April and again June, our clubs will be privileged to host an inbound group from Argentina in April with Rochester Rotary Risers as the lead club. In June, Rochester Rotary Club takes the lead on hosting the inbound team from Ankara, Turkey. Your contributions to Rotary International Foundation and the resulting VTT grant support make these trips possible; the welcome hospitality provided by Rotarians make these trips memorable for them and for us. We will be seeking home hospitality for our Turkish guests June 13 to June 17 and will provide more information as that becomes available.

An old several line poem is a great ode to spring:

"Spring is sprung
The grass is riz

I wonder where the birdies is?"

The birdies are back in the trees, on the lawns and for some whose golf game survived the long winter, coming soon to a golf course near you.

HAPPY SPRING!



May 21, 2011

One of our club's favorite social events – the Progressive Dinner – is scheduled for May 21. Plans are still being made, and you will all receive invitations with details this month.

This year we will begin the evening with a social hour at the newly remodeled Rochester Civic Theatre. There will be a cash bar there. We will then progress to our members' homes for dinner in small groups. The final destination is not in place at this time, but dessert will be with the whole group at another location. This is a great way to enjoy each others company and really get to know each other.

Cost for members is \$15/person (hosts to do pay) and each person/couple will be asked to co-host and bring appetizers or dessert.

Rotary Response to the Disaster in Japan

Dear Rotarians,

This email is a follow up announcements made at our Thursday meetings about a Rotary response to the disaster in Japan. Even with some hope of partial containment at the nuclear reactor, the devastation and its aftermath will not be over soon. As Rotarians we care for and about other in our community, our nation and our world. There have been questions and discussion about how we as a club should respond.

A letter from District Governor Craig Leiser and Past District Governor Newell Krogmann transmitted a message from RI Vice President Tom Thorfinnson which listed a number of options. In the past our first response has Shelter Boxes and that remains an option, but several exist as well. It is very apparent that what has escalated from a disaster to a catastrophe will be long term. The needs are overwhelming and a one size fits all may not be the best option. Tom listed the following options in his letter:



1. Trustees of the RI Foundation established the Rotary Japan and Pacific Island 2011 Disaster Recovery Fund. Individuals can contribute directly via the RI website. www.rotary.org.
2. Establish funds in our Rochester Rotary Club Foundation in order to partner with Japanese districts with projects they feel are most appropriate and urgent to rebuild their communities.
3. Consider contribution directly to emergency relief organizations such as Red Cross or Salvation Army.

The Rochester Rotary Club Board is recommending we create a fund in our Rochester Rotary Club Foundation and accrue those funds until we can match those funds to Rotary Club rebuilding projects in Japan.

Donations may be made by sending a contribution to the Rotary office:

Rochester Rotary Club
P.O. Box 7566
Rochester, MN 55903-7566

OR contributions are being collected at Rotary meetings in a basket at the registration table. Please indicate Japan Disaster in the memo line of the check.

An announcement will be made when a request to release the matching funds for a Rotary Club project in Japan has been received. The announcement will indicate the scope of the project and the total matching funds released.

Karel Weigel
President
Rochester Rotary Club

Rotary District 5960 Conference - April 15-16, 2011



Prom Center, Oakdale, MN

Visit: <http://www.rotary5960.org/> to register on-line

Friday, April 15, 2011, conference begins at 10:30 am

12:30 pm Keynote Luncheon: Don Shelby

6:00 pm Dinner Program: R.I. President's Representative Elise Cadigan

7:30 pm Entertainment with Kenny Salwey - The River Rat

Saturday, April 16, 2011, conference ends at 1:30 pm

8:00 am Breakfast and Roundtable Sessions

12:00 pm Celebration Luncheon: Our Youth Exchange Talent Showcase

Weeradadana Water Tank in Sri Lanka

October 2010 - March 2011

by Joanne Rosener, Rochester Rotary Risers

Background

Through a “chance encounter” while accompanying his wife who had appointments at Mayo Clinic in fall of 2009, Rotarians Mahesh Pieris and Joanne Rosener became acquainted and expressed interest in promoting a partnership between their respective Rotary clubs on a water project. Over the next several months and exchange of emails, a proposal was presented to the Rochester Rotary Risers that subsequently received support from The Rotary Club of Rochester, Greater Rochester Rotary and the Zumbrota Rotary Club. On May 11, 2011, notice was received that a Matching Grant had been authorized in the amount of \$15,810 USD by The Rotary Foundation for the “Weeradadana Water Tank” project.



Land of Lakes Sri Lanka is not!

There are no natural lakes in Sri Lanka. Water storing and delivery has been a staple in the lives of Sri Lankans since the first century A.D. Irrigation tanks are part of an ancient tradition of harvesting and preserving the local rainfall and water from streams and rivers for later use, primarily for agriculture and drinking water. Tanks are especially important in Sri Lanka in areas without perennial rainfall where water supply replenishment is dependent up on a cycle of dry seasons alternating with monsoon seasons. Numbering nearly 10,000 countrywide, it is estimated that Sri Lanka probably has the highest number of man-made water bodies in the world. With the conclusion of the 30-year-old civil war, the government is busy resettling war displaced farmers back in their own lands whose incomes are based on producing paddy or other agricultural-based products. Rehabilitation of the ancient water tanks is vital to their success.

Project Goal

Thousands of farmer families living in the North Western Province of Sri Lanka make a living on paddy and subsidiary crop cultivation. The whole Province is dotted with irrigation tanks / reservoirs to provide water to the farmer families. Almost every village has a tank / reservoir supplying water to farm lands, paddy fields and for drinking and bathing purposes. As noted above, most of these tanks / reservoirs were built centuries ago and have exceeded their useful life for many years.



During the rainy seasons, the tanks / reservoirs fill with rainwater. By design, the excess water is to flow to the next tank / reservoir, thus forming a network of tanks / reservoirs. The water stored in tanks / reservoirs is released for farming and cultivation purposes making year round cultivation possible. However, due to the dilapidated condition of many of the tanks / reservoirs, the stored water flows out. The result is that most of the poor farmer families typically receive only one season of cultivation, which is insufficient to earn a living resulting in many farmer families giving up crop cultivation and migrating to the larger cities which creates other problems for the State.

As the primary sponsor of this project, the Rotary Club of Colombo Mid-Town is committed to the rehabilitation of the irrigation tanks/reservoirs.

The goal of the project is to provide a dependable, renewable source of water to 305 farmer families in the North Western Province for year-round crop cultivation thus enabling the farmers to become self-sufficient and productive (from one to three plantings per season).

Continued on page 5

Budget

The total budget was 1,964,000 SLRs.

Broken down, the project costs included:

- Site clearing: 5,000
- Desilting tank bed: 748,000
- Site preparation activities: 825,000
- Reconstruct sluice gate: 86,000
- Road/culvert preparation: 300,000

The project cost in US dollars was \$15,810

Funding partners included:

- Rotary Club of Colombo-Mid Town - \$1,000
- Rochester Rotary Risers – \$498
- The Rotary Club of Rochester – \$2,000
- Greater Rochester Rotary Club – \$1,550
- Zumbrota Rotary Club – \$182
- Rotary District Designated Funds (DDF) – \$10,580



Status

The project work was completed a few months ago, however, the project would not be considered done until the rains had filled the reservoirs and were deemed working. At this point in time, Mahesh has communicated with us that the reservoir is full and working as designed. The final report is being prepared and will be completed within the next month.

Conclusion

Rotary is all about collaboration on service projects. Many thanks to all the participating Rotary clubs in Southeast Minnesota. Through a “chance encounter,” we had the opportunity and privilege to improve the lives of more than 300 farmer families living across the world in Sri Lanka. And, while the project has concluded, friendships remain. Thank you for your support on this project!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS AND PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



RI Foundation chair **Dana Funk** presents a Paul Harris Award to **Ingrid Neel**



New member **Harriet Hodgson**, Journalist and Author. Proposed and presented by **John Hodgson**.



New member **John Pacchetti**, Home Instead Senior Care, Proposed and introduced by **Leigh Johnson**.

ROCHESTER ROTARY CLUB

P.O. Box 7566
Rochester, MN 55903-7566
Phone: 507-252-0085

ROTARY CLUB OF ROCHESTER

Rochester, Minnesota

Organized June 12, 1925

Club No. 2047 District No. 5960

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build good will and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

THE MOCCASIN FLOWER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
ROTARY CLUB OF ROCHESTER

PRESIDENT: Karel Weigel

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Mark Dripps

PRESIDENT NOMINEE: Lorie Luedke

SECRETARY: Richard Brubaker

TREASURER: Paul Tieskoetter

PAST PRESIDENT: Dana Funk

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Elizabeth Karsell, 507-252-0085

E-mail: romnrotary@charter.net

ROTARY DISTRICT 5960 GOVERNOR

Craig Leiser, Stillwater Sunrise Rotary

ASSISTANT GOVERNOR

Mike O'Fallon, Rochester Rotary

WEB SITES

Rochester Rotary: www.rochesterrotaryclubs.org

Links to STRIVE – Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic

District 5960: www.rotary5960.org

Rotary International: rotary.org

ACTIVE COMMITTEES

Four Avenues of Service: Club, International, Vocational, Community

CLUB SERVICE I

Christine Beech, Director

Greeters *Paul Tieskoetter*
 Membership Development *Mark Dripps*
 Rotary Information Officer *Leigh Johnson*
 Visitors Desk *Kathy Lessard*
 Sergeant-at-Arms *John Woodruff*
 Mentors *Bill Wiktor*

CLUB SERVICE II

Steve Rossello, Director

Club Bulletin *Lorie Luedke, Elizabeth Karsell, Lois Nietz*
 Club Web Site *Lorie Luedke*
 Invocations *Phil Karsell*
 Programs *Stacy Sinner*
 Public Relations *Lorie Luedke*
 Four-Way Test *Chris Holloway*

CLUB SERVICE III

Margaret Hinz, Director

Biennial Auction *Lorie Luedke, Laurel Schacht*
 Golf Day *Rick Lien*
 Music *Jane Belau*
 Social Events *Jim Wiekamp*

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Dave Moertel, Director

Foundational Scholarships *Steve Sponsel*
 Group Study Exchange Team *Gilda Banfield*
 Rotary International Foundation *Dana Funk*
 YouthLINC & Youth Exchange *Vicki Allen*
 Rotary Gift of Life *Betty Devine*
 World Community Service *Judith O'Fallon*

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Suzanne Dinusson, Director

Camp RYLA *Steve Rossello*
 Rotary Literacy Coordinator *Stacy Sinner*
 Rotary Readers Project *Cris Fischer*
 Rotation Day *Danae Ostern*
 STRIVE *Linda Herrick*
 Vocational Talks *Fred Banfield*
 Youth Protection Officer *Kim Adams, Hilla Ferguson*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Lorrie Swancutt, Director

Channel One *Mike O'Fallon, Tom Moyer*
 Community Food Response *Paul Bleimeyer, Glenn VanLaningham*
 Library Host *Alan Sessler*
 Quarry Hill Fall Festival *Barbara Porter*
 Rotary Bell Ringing for Salvation Army *Paul Bleimeyer, Mark Neville*
 Rotary US Bank Holiday Classic .. *Lorie Luedke, Lois Nietz, Mike Quinn, Doug Rovang, Laurel Schacht*
 Service Above Self Awards *Cresta Deeds, Linda Hillenbrand*
 Student Guests *Allie Good*
 White Oaks Park *Ashok Patel, Mike Mahrer*