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Rotary Club of Denver Mile High

#### Denver Mile High Rotary where commitment and service rise above the mountain tops

## **President's Column:**

March 12, 2019

Hi everyone,

Paul and I had a great time in Italy. It was nice to escape the snow; instead we saw cherry blossoms and daffodils.

Back in Denver, by now you are aware of the decision by Food For Thought to eliminate on-site packing of food bags at six schools, including Goldrick. Please read Greg Thielen's announcement for more details. A special thanks to all the Club members who organized and participated in the program, and to Greg for introducing us to FFT

Our participation has created strong bonds among our members, has been a magnet for new members and has enhanced the reputation of the Club. I hope that the Local Community Service Committee will find new opportunities for regular hands-on involvement in the community. Meanwhile, Greg's announcement includes opportunities for individual members to volunteer at the "hub" packing sites.

There will be a memorial service in Denver for Peggy Houser on Sunday March 17 at 2pm at Trinity United Methoodist Church at 1820 Broadway. It will be a lovely way to honor a great lady and celebrate her life, including her many contributions to Denver Mile High Rotary.

We will have a Board meeting on Tuesday March 12 using Zoom teleconferencing technology. If you are a new member this would be a great way to get a broader view of the Club's operations. Below are instructions to join the call. Everyone is welcome.

Have a great week. Carolyn

Denver Mile High Rotary Board Meeting: Tuesday March 12, 2019 from 5:00 to 6:15 PM (note new starting time)

Zoom Conference

From your computer go to www.zoom.us

Click JOIN a call. Type in the following number 720-219-8737

You can choose if you want your video on or off. You must use the <u>www.zoom.us</u> link for the conference call.

If people are mobile and want to join via their cell phone in the car or wherever, then they must download the ZOOM app to the phone.

Need help: Call Carolyn at 303-589-7599

## **FAMILY OF ROTARY**

**23and Me DNA Test.** We have all read about the surprising and unexpected connections families are making through DNA testing. Leslie Lawson, mother, honorary DMHR member, former Blue Bear extraordinaire, attorney, judge and wife of **Dan Himelspach**, recently found her younger half-sister, Brandee, through 23and Me. Leslie is 15 years older, and their meeting added closure to complex family dynamics that involved their shared father, Keith, and his nine children with four wives.

Brandee's mother died when she was three and Keith moved on (he already had seven children.) Brandee's maternal grandparents raised her and she knew little about her father. She grew up in Phoenix, graduated from college. She is married, has a family, and continues to live in Phoenix.

Leslie says it is fascinating to see similarities among her half-siblings. She has found that some say things in the same way, two have the same laugh, and others share physical features. She will be busy arranging get-togethers with Brandee and introduce her to their large family. In the meantime, they have many pictures and stories to share. The "absence of baggage" is a plus, Leslie said, at least at the start of the relationship...



Dan and Leslie had a great time visiting Brandee and her family in Phoenix. The famous Lawson-Himelspach hospitality will be in full force at a future family gathering in Denver.

Brandee and Leslie Celebrate their Newly Found Sisterhood





## Peggy Joyce Houser



#### Please follow the link for the full Peggy Hauser Obituary

https://horancares.com/obits/peggy-joyce-houser/

Peggy Joyce Houser, 87, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, passed away February 26, 2019 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She was born January 11, 1932 in Wilson, North Carolina to Bennie and Lessie Carter.

Peggy is survived by her husband Everett A. 'Jack' Houser, of Colorado Springs, (formerly of Shelby, NC); children, Elizabeth Spafford of Colorado Springs, CO; Amy Shull of Grand Junction, CO; Grandchildren, Luke and Benjamin Spafford, Cassidee and Cooper Shull; and Sister, Catherine Gill of Wilson, NC. She was preceded in death by her sister, Martha Vick.

Peggy was a Graduate of Flora McDonald College in Red Springs, NC with a degree in Bible and Christian Education.





She did further graduate work at Princeton Seminary and Hartford Seminary.

Her first career as Director of Christian Education in Presbyterian Churches was in Lincolnton, NC, Coral Gables, FL, New York City and West Hartford, CT. After moving with her family to Denver, CO, she became a Certified Financial Planner emphasizing the importance of educating women and children to become financially secure. She was the author of "How to Teach Children About Money" and spent time encouraging parents and grandparents to help children avoid mistakes many adults make. She organized twenty-two Investment Clubs for women, encouraging them to take control of their financial lives. Peggy also gave of her time to help people at the Denver Rescue Mission develop a financial plan for their future. She was listed in "Who's Who" in Finance and Industry and was quoted in various newspapers and magazines including the Wall St. Journal, Christian Science Monitor, Better Homes and Gardens and Smart Money.

Peggy made a difference in many people's lives. She wanted her life to count for something good by helping them achieve their goals and dreams. Her family was the most important thing in her life and she was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

While in Denver she was a member of the League of Women Voters, Toastmasters and the Denver Mile High Rotary Club. She was a Paul Harris Fellow and was named Rotarian of the Year by her club. She served on the Foundation Board of the Young Americans Bank, as well as the Institute of Certified Financial Planners.

After retirement she and her husband enjoyed travel with friends, especially Scotland, and a wide range of Elderhostel trips. In 2012 she and her husband moved to Liberty Heights, a retirement community in Colorado Springs, to be closer to their daughter and her family.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff at Liberty Heights Memory Care, Rehabilitation and Suncrest Hospice for their kindness and compassion during this difficult time.

A celebration of Peggy's life will be held in Colorado Springs at 2:00pm, on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at Liberty Heights, 12105 Ambassador Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921.

Burial will be in Denver at 2:30pm, on Friday, March 15, 2019 at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Area 'B', 3698 S. Sheridan Blvd., Denver, CO.

A Memorial service will be held in Denver at 2:00pm, on Sunday, March 17, 2019 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1820 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to any of the following: The Denver Rescue Mission, 6100 Smith Road, Denver, CO 80216 Trinity Methodist Church, 1820 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202 First Presbyterian Church, 219 E. Bijou Street, Colorado Spring, CO 80903 Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601

## **Denver Mile High Rotary Calendar of Events**

http://denvermilehigh.org/Events/Calendar

March Happy Hour—Tuesday, March 19th Shells and Sauce, 5–7 pm - 2600 E 12th Ave, Denver, CO 80206

March 16-17th - PeaceJam Youth Leadership Conference www.peacejam.org

 April 13th - Spring Fling Event – Get your tickets! SHARE – use the following link – <u>CLICK HERE</u>
<u>Milehighspringswing.eventbrite.com</u>
Contact Brad Thompson for more details brad.thompson5280@gmail.com



April 18th - Rotary Monthly Happy Hour—University Club 5pm—7pm— Free Beer—Hosted by U Club member - Sonny Wiegand

**April 27th** - District Conference - <u>**REGISTER NOW</u></u> - A one-day conference to inspire, connect and re-energize! Highlights include a focus on Mental Health, club projects, youth, and a Connections Cafe.** *Only \$125 for the full conference, with special pricing for first time attendees and Rotaract***</u>** 

June 22nd - Annual Rafting Trip - More details to come - Save the date Mile Hi Rafting – Contact Geoff Noble

This is a performance the Flatirons Jazz Orchestra did a few months ago for a local TV program called Denver Blues Roots.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcUx8aDiYy0&feature=youtu.be

## **Denver Mile High Rotary Upcoming Programs**

**March 13th**— Ron Baker—Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA)

March 20th - Jen Landers - Colorado Young Leaders

March 27th - Jim Rohrer—What happened to SEARS

**April 3rd** - Charlene Porter - World Icon, Colorado Unknown – Hattie McDaniel

April 10th - Suzi Stolte—Opioid Interaction Awareness Alliance

## Weekly Inspirators, Greeters & Hosts

#### March 13th

Inspiration - Greg Thielen Greeters - Anson Thompson and Brad Thompson Host - Ann Tull

March 20th Inspiration - Tony Vaida Greeters - Mary Walta and Bruce Ward Host - Amy Weed

March 27th Inspiration - Ronnie Weiss Greeters - Sonny Wiegand and Chris Wong Host - Louis Wyman

## **Food for Thought update**

Recently the Food for Thought Executive Board decided to end on-site packing at six schools, including Goldrick. Food for Thought will deliver food bags directly to these schools. This decision was made for two reasons. First, delivering food to multiple packing sites has become more complex and time-consuming. Second, and more importantly, coordinating volunteers for these sites has become practically unmanageable. Starting March 1 FFT restructured into two packing hubs - one is outside "under the bridge" on the Metro State University of Denver campus. The second is at 16230 E. Airport Cr. Neither of these sites is favorable for an ongoing Rotary group project, therefore, we are temporarily (I hope) stopping our food bag project. We will continue conversations with Food for Thought to see if we can arrange another project in the future.

For now I would like to thank Tom Giordano and Jeff McAnallen for the incredible leadership and ongoing commitment to the kids in FFT schools. Without them none of this would have happened. I sincerely appreciated the efforts of all DMHR Rotarians who worked on this project, especially a group of devoted "regulars,"including: Tom Gregory, Ronnie Weiss, Robin Springer, Tony Vaida, Mark Foseid, Ted Hendryx, Chuck Rudolph, Bob Connaghan and Kevin Gallaway (and his amazing daughter, Elyse)! Week in and week out these amazing Rotarians truly modeled "service above self" while serving the kids in the Denver Public Schools.

While we will not have our group of Rotarians each week, I sincerely hope that you will continue to volunteer as individuals with Food for Thought. The need is great and FFT is committed to reaching more students who desperately need food assistance.

Greg Thielen

#### March Birthdays

March 2nd - Audrey Leavitt March 3rd - Karl Paulson March 8th - Michael Tapp March 13th - Michaela Levine March 14th - Geoff Noble March 23rd - Constance Mortell





A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors





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## **PROMOTING THE MILE HIGH SPRING SWING EVENT**

- Explain what we do at Rotary, locally and globally. (no need to do this first step if you are visiting and promoting to another club; however, you should share some information about our club's projects over the years).
- The MHSS is our BIG fund-raising event to help us raise more money for our foundation to help us do more good in the world.
- What is the MHSS? It's going to be SO MUCH FUN! We have an amazing 18-piece big band called the Flatiron's Jazz Orchestra, there's going to be music, dancing (if you want to) great food catered by Indulge Bistro and Wine Bar, we have a variety of beverage sponsors and a ton of fun people to meet and get to know!

When is it? Saturday April 13, 2019. From 6 pm to 10 pm

Where is it? – 3858 Walnut St, Denver. It's a really cool new office building called Industry at RiNo Station. If you haven't seen it yet, you'll definitely want to check it out!

How many people are going to be there? We are shooting for 300+

Tickets are \$100 each. Here's a great offer that several businesses and individuals are taking advantage of: Buy 5 get one FREE! So, you get 6 tickets for \$500. Bring friends, colleagues or clients!

Where can I get my tickets today you ask? Go to: milehighspringswing.eventbrite.com

Don't delay...tickets are selling fast and we'd hate to have you miss out!

- Pass out the fliers. Point out the Eventbrite link at the bottom of the page.
- Any questions you can't answer, collect their name and number and send them to Brad Thompson at <u>brad.thompson5280@gmail.com</u> or 303-478-5729 and I will be happy to call them and answer them!

Remember....your enthusiasm will be contagious so be super excited whenever you are sharing information about the MHSS!

Thank you!

# Take 20% off one ride to or from Industry at RiNo Station for Mile High Spring Swing!



https://www.lyft.com/invite/MHSS19



## JOIN THE ROTARY HALF-DAY RAFTING TRIPS WITH MILE HI RAFTING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND



A \$5 DONATION IS INCLUDED IN THE COST OF EACH TRIP. ALL PROCEDES GO TO SUPPORT THE WARRIORS ON CATARACT PROGRAM

## SURE-SHOT - \$54 ADULTS, \$47 CHILD (13 AND UNDER)

Rafting on Clear Creek River's mountain water is an experience that's fun for the whole family. Get ready for some fun on our exciting 'Sure Shot' beginner-rafting trip. Begin with passing by the historic Charlie Taylor Water Wheel experiencing Class II rapids (ripples). While rafting through Historic Idaho Springs the Class III rapids of Castle Falls and Argo Holes test your newly developed rafting skills. Below town history and nature abound, with the occasional sighting of Retail Hawk, Deer, Fox, Bob Cat, Lynx, Elk, and Big Horn Sheep. Dizzy Lizzy, Power Line, Mountain Lion, and Box prepare us for the grand finale of Mr. Twister! The perfect beginner - starting with Class II water so you can practice, and then the Class III rapids. There is a 50 pound minimum for rafting to insure proper fit of the life jacket. Allow 3 hours for the trip.

## **BLAST (INTERMEDIATE HALF DAY) - \$62 ADULTS**

Perhaps you've already been there and done that and are looking for something more. Most folks who paddle the Blast weren't expecting some of Colorado's most consistent whitewater, and come back for more! With five solid class IV rapids and more class three whitewater than we have space to mention, the Blast is waiting for those with good physical conditioning and an attitude for adventure. If you are active in your daily life the 'Blast' is the trip for you. Allow 3 hours for the trip. Minimum age 14.

## KAMIKAZE (ADVANCED HALF DAY) - \$84 ADULTS

One of our former guests refers to this trip as "the best darn whitewater around!", and after braving the rapids of the Kamikaze trip you'll understand why. Add another two miles of continuous (and we aren't kidding!) class IV/III whitewater onto the Blast and you have an adventure that will bring you back over and over. If you're on your toes you might have time to enjoy the scenery of the Front Range before you dive into your next rapid. Previous experience and the ability to swim is highly recommended. Allow 3 hours for the trip. Minimum age 14.

# **Contact Melanie Gentz, Andrew Bell, Scott Smeester, or Geoff Noble at**

gtnoble@comcast.net

All rebates to be donated directly to the Colorado based non-profit program Warriors on Cataract

## **Contributions to DMHR Foundation**

Contributions to the DMHR Foundation can be made by giving them to Tom Giordano at club meetings or by mailing checks directly to Tom Giordano 7271 East Wesley Avenue Denver, CO 80224

Checks should be made out the Rotary Club of Denver Mile High Foundation (although DMHR Foundation will work). For questions, contact Tom at 303-263-5091

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