

ROTARY NOTARY

Happy Easter!



Member Birthdays:

Dustin Sylvester	4/6
Ryan Heikes	4/9
Terry Wiggers	4/12
Marc Campbell	4/23

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Elizabeth Farha

**Invocation, Flag Salute,
and Four-way test:**
Kelly Dandurand

Special Guests:

Darin Kater
Matt Leavitt
Lance Minor
Megan Madsen
Scott Nelson

Rotary Anniversaries:

Larry McNeil—CHARTER
MEMBER 38 years
Anne Schneider—16 years
Scott Jensen—14 years
Brian Burrus—13 years
Kim Vining—9 years
Deb Brinegar—4 years
Michael Caffrey—3 years

Wedding Anniversaries:

Michael and Lauren Caffrey—11
years

Quote of the Week:

The same boiling water that
softens the potato hardens the
egg. It's what you're made of.
Not the circumstances.

—Unknown

WELCOME WHITNEY READER AND WICHITA GRAND OPERA



Whitney Reader, Jr. is the new General and Music Director of Wichita Grand Opera. A native of Wichita, he spent 15 years in Germany conducting before returning to his hometown. Whitney is excited to be here to revitalize the image people have of opera by bringing this art form to new venues.

Most people think of opera as a story sung in another language, presented by artists who wear costumes and gowns, and patrons who arrive wearing top hats and jewels.

The board and staff of Wichita Grand Opera (WGO) plan to change that image by expanding the performances and venues where opera and music will be presented.

As an example, earlier this year WGO presented a concert featuring Caroline Campbell, violinist to the stars. It was a performance to remember, one that included tango dancers and a variety of musical genres. It was an energizing launch for WGO after the pandemic darkened the lights of artistic performances all over the world. And it marked the return to Wichita of its new General and Music Director, Whitney Reader, Jr.

If you were fortunate enough to attend Luciano Pavarotti's performance at the Kansas Coliseum in 2002 you were a part of history. It was the inaugural performance of WGO. Also making history was the fact that Pavarotti only performed at four locations that year, with our city being one of them. Later that year Placido Domingo came to Wichita to perform with WGO.

Future performances will most certainly include world-renowned opera singers. But, as Reader and WGO board chair, Grant Bauserman explained, there are plans to bring the traditional storytelling of opera and music in unexpected ways to unexpected venues. Wichita has many landmarks that could be exciting locations for performances, including the Sedgwick County Zoo, Cowtown and

the Wichita Art Museum.

Coming up in a few short weeks WGO will host a Cinco de Mayo party featuring a ten-piece band and catering by Felipe's. Later in the year the organization plans to celebrate the 80th birthday of Kansas native and WSU graduate Samuel Ramey, who is one of Opera's major stars and the most recorded bass singers in history.

But why is opera important to Wichita? Dennis Ross, the CEO of Wichita Grand Opera, said that having high-level performing arts in this community is an important tool for recruiting professionals. "Having fantastic arts gets people here!" he exclaimed.

There is a strong social aspect to opera and its ability to transport you to the stories of another time and place. Plus, it's just plain fun. Come out and be part of WGO's new offerings this year.

Announcements:

RYLA camp will be offered this year from May 31 through June 4 in Winfield at Southwest College. Our club would like to sponsor a student or two. Please contact **Greg Ek, Kim Hurtig, or Sarah Wine**, who is chairing this effort, if you know of a high school student who is interested in attending.

Sign up for the May 11 Fireside at the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Society. Reservations are required for all members and guests. The deadline for reservations is May 4 and guest lunches will be \$13.00

Family Rotary Night at the Wichita Wind Surge:

Mark your calendars! **June 1** is Family Night for all Wichita area Rotary clubs at the Wichita Wind Surge baseball. Come out and see the new Riverfront Stadium and enjoy a summer evening of baseball with your fellow Rotarians. Tickets are \$16 and we'll have special seating.

Habitat Service Project:

Jim Boone announced that our club will participate in a service project at a Habitat for Humanity home under construction. The date is April 28. Read Kim's email for more details on how you can sign up!

Next Week:

NO MEETING on April 13 because of Easter week.

WE KNOW KU WON—BUT WHO WON EWR'S BRACKET BATTLE?



What a difference a Cinderella team makes! The surprising win of St. Peter's University over Kentucky created disarray in the annual EWR Battle of the Brackets! Headed up by our own **Kim Hurtig**, this project raised \$1,600—the most ever—for the EWR Foundation, which provides scholarships to area students. Congratulations to **Fred Heismeyer**, who won the grand prize of \$100 for having the best bracket.

Shown above are Whitney Reader, Jr., from Wichita Grand Opera, **Kim Hurtig**, EWR Club Executive, and **Greg Ek**, EWR Club President. Whitney drew the names of the names of **Elizabeth Farha** and **Eileen Kludt**, who each received \$50.

EWR FOUNDATION UPDATE



Deb Brinegar holds up the sweet treat she received for being an early donor to the EWR Foundation's Endowment Campaign. All early donors received chocolates from The Ferris Wheel to thank them for their support.

It seems like only a couple of weeks ago that our own Foundation launched an Endowment Fund Campaign, setting a goal of raising \$25,000. The purpose is to provide ongoing financial stability for the Foundation to ensure future scholarship support at a meaningful level to students from Sedgwick County who are attending Kansas universities and trade schools.

An endowment fund is a permanent fund that is invested. The income is used for charitable purposes, while the principal is never touched. It is a gift that keeps on giving.

Susan Addington, President of the EWR Foundation, announced that in just three short months our fundraising goal has been met! As a result, the Foundation board has "upped the ante" and raised the fundraising goal to \$40,000. If you do the math (and Susan did!) this adds up to just \$170 per member.

Special thanks to Susan and the other members of the EWR Foundation board who have worked so hard to make this campaign a success: **Denise Hearson, Schoen Fitzgerald, John Vetter, Brant Westbrook, and Scott Jensen.**