



ROTARY NOTARY

A PEEK BEHIND THE THEATER CURTAIN WITH HEIDI HURTIG

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Jaren Johnson

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:
Robin McGonigle

Special Guests:
Michael Caffrey
Clarke Carnahan
Mindy East
Tony Hurtig
Eric Ireland
Erica from Meritrust

Member News: Britt Fulmer

Rotary Anniversaries:
Greg Ek—11 years
Craig Wulf—4 years

Wedding Anniversary:
Fred and Patty Thurlow—
36 years

Quote of the Week:

Strength doesn't come from what you can do. It comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn't.

— Rikki Rogers



Club Executive and proud mom Kim Hurtig introduced today's speaker, Heidi Hurtig, who is the Associate Senior Season Marketing Manager for The American Theatre Guild, in Kansas City, MO. Heidi has seen more than 100 musicals in her life—with many more to come!

Perhaps you've wondered what all the fuss is about the musical "Hamilton." Although it hasn't come to Wichita yet, many Wichitans have seen, and loved, this musical, which is about Alexander Hamilton and the early days of America. It's all sung in hip-hop and, according to today's speaker, Heidi Hurtig, the dancing is incredible.

Hurtig works for the American Theater Guild (ATG), which brings the best of Broadway theater to 11 U.S. cities, including Wichita. Each city hosts at least four shows annually for a minimum of two nights, ranging from two to eight performances. The significance of "Hamilton" is its effect on ticket sales to all musicals. People who can't get a ticket to "Hamilton" end up seeing another show—and loving it.

Hurtig also explained that a show like Hamilton comes to a city where it can be supported for at least three weeks of performances. Broadway shows may run for years before traveling to another city, or in the case of "The Spongebob Musical," coming to Wichita in April 2020, the show was only on Broadway for a year before traveling.

Scalpers are an issue that all presenters like the ATG must deal with. Hurtig explained that currently there is one official online site for purchasing ATG tickets—wichitatix.com. Ticket scalpers are very clever and may offer tickets for sale on a website with a similar name. The problem is, they may sell you tickets that don't exist for performances that are not scheduled, for example, on July 4. As

always, if a deal online sounds too good to be true (such as tickets to a sold-out show), it probably is.

Aside from ticket scalping, the internet is bringing new innovations that make theater viewing possible for patrons anywhere. BroadwayHD.com gives viewers the opportunity to watch Broadway shows streamed online. Visiting New York? BroadwayRoulette.com will sell you a ticket on the evening you're available for a greatly reduced price of \$49-\$59/ticket. The catch is: they choose the show.

Yes, theater is alive and well, both here in Wichita, and across the U.S. And you don't have to wait long to see another ATG show. Coming up in May is "Beautiful: the Carole King Musical." You just may see Heidi Hurtig, one of music theater's biggest fans, there too.

Upcoming Events:

March 28—Mix it up with your Rotary friends and make some new ones! Our next monthly mixer will take place at AJ's Pizza at Northrock Lanes, 3232 N. Rock Road. They have a great Thursday night special—a mini-pizza with unlimited toppings and a side salad for just \$5. Join us—the fun begins at 5:15 or whenever you arrive. And bring a friend, spouse, or co-worker! This event is too good not to be shared!

Congratulations, Bobbi:

Recently the Wichita Business Journal had an article about our own Bobbi Hansen and her business, Sunflower Travel, which turns 50 this year.

You Shop. Amazon Gives:

The AmazonSmile Foundation sent the East Wichita Rotary Foundation a check for \$95.42 for activity from October 1—December 31, 2018. What an easy way to raise funds for our Foundation! Do you shop on amazon.com? Just visit smile.amazon.com to get started.

Next Week:

Jana Reeder, founder of Mt. Hope Animal Sanctuary, will be our speaker.

PAINT A MAP—MAKE KIDS SMILE



Help elementary school students learn more about the USA—join your fellow EWR members in painting a map on the school grounds of Caldwell Elementary next month. **Lynn Jeane** and **Eileen Kludt** have chosen April 27 as the scheduled date, with a rain date scheduled for May 11. Caldwell is located at 1441 S. Edgemoor, directly north of the Dillons store on Harry and Edgemoor. Map painting begins at 8:00 am and takes about 4 hours from start to finish. It's fun teamwork with Rotarians, and a project that the schools can use for years to come. Every map project comes with learning materials for classrooms. Sign up begins next week. Above: The Buckner Elementary project in 2017 with **Bob Morris** and **Justin Baxter**.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY



It's no secret that EWR has the best food of any Rotary Club in town. Here, Robin McGonigle and Sarah Wine enjoy the Mexican buffet, which typically features fajita-style tacos, beans, rice, and delicious sugar-cinnamon churros.