

Rotary District 2016 – District Conference Speakers

Mary Beth Growney Selene, RI Director 2013-2015

Mary Beth will be speaking at the Foundation Luncheon on Friday, April 29th and at the Family of Rotary Dinner on Saturday, April 30th.



Mary Beth is the founder and President of Ryan Signs, Inc., in Madison. She is a non-lawyer Fee Arbitrator and a non-lawyer member of the Client Security Fund of the State Bar of Wisconsin. Mary Beth is a former member of the Board of Directors and ongoing supporter of the What If? Foundation, which works to feed and educate children in Haiti.

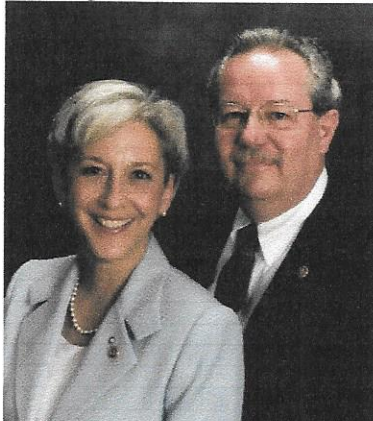
Personal time is shared with her husband Alan Selene (PDG, District 5970) and daughter Bridget.

Mary Beth Growney Selene has been a member of the Rotary Club of Madison West Towne-Middleton since 1987 and she served her club as President in 1993-1994. She has been a host parent to four Rotary Youth Exchange students.

In her District 6250 she served as Governor in 2000-2001; District Membership Chair and District Rotary Foundation Chair. She served as the General Chair for the (then) Zones 27 & 28 Institute and was a Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator for Zone 27, the Public Image Resource Coordinator for Zone 28, and as Zone 28 Rotary Coordinator. Mary Beth served as Rotary International Director in 2013-2015.

RI President's Representative PDG Ronald Lewis Napier and his wife Kathy.

PDG Ron will be speaking on Friday, April 29th at the DG Fellowship Dinner and at the Brunch on Sunday

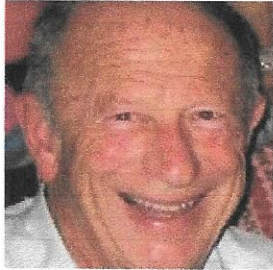


PDG Ronald Lewis Napier is the Rotary International President's Representative to our District 6440 Conference. Ron was District Governor in 2009-10 for District 7570, covering western Virginia and northeastern Tennessee. He joined Rotary in 1983 is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Front Royal. He served as the GSE Team leader to District 1400 in northern Finland in 2006.

Ron will be attending our conference with his wife Kathy, also a Rotarian, and past president of the Rotary Club of Linden. Ron and Kathy are Rotary Foundation Major Donors, Sustainers and Benefactors.

Ron is a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge for the 26th Judicial District of Virginia. Kathy is Vice President for Business Development for ThermoFischer Scientific.

**Rotarian Sam Harris a member of the Rotary Club of Northbrook.
Speaker at the General Session on Friday, April 29th morning .**



In 2001 Sam wrote his autobiography, Sammy, Child Survivor of the Holocaust and in 2005 and 2010 the second and third edition were published. Spanish, Japanese, Russian, German and Polish editions are now available.

In 2005, Sam was awarded "The State of Illinois Human Rights Award for Distinguished Leadership for Protecting the Human Rights of the People of Illinois."

In 2013, The Boy Scouts of America Sam The Distinguished Citizenship Award. In 2014, Sam received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

**Farrah Azeem Khan
Speaker at General Session on Friday, April 29th afternoon and Sunday, May 1st Brunch**



Farrah Azeem Khan from Pakistan is experienced in protection and promotion of human rights, minimizing of violence against women, access to justice, alternate dispute resolution at the community level and protection of the flood affectees is highly appreciated by beneficiaries' and stakeholders. The beneficiaries of these projects have been women, children, minorities, farmers, vulnerable communities, under trial prisoners and flood affectees.

Designed many Advocacy Campaigns to promote women's political rights, good governance and democracy. These campaigns were run at the national level through Radio, Television and print media.

Work closely with the civil society organizations which include media, political parties, universities, trade unions, student unions, academia, teachers associations, bar association, press clubs, UN agencies, Donors, and NGOs / CBOs.

Designed and conducted several training programs on gender, women rights, political education, democracy, governance, leadership, and communication skills for police, govt officials, parliamentarians, justice providers, journalists and NGOs.

Designed and closed down 33 projects in Pakistan with the support from ADB, UNDP, USAID, DFID, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDEF, AusAid, EU, etc

Patti Quigley

Speaker at General Session on Friday, April 29th afternoon and the Peace Rally on Saturday afternoon.



After graduating from Lowell High School, Patti earned her BA degree in finance from the University of Lowell. She went on to have a successful career as an internal auditor, VP of financial operations, and management consultant at various commercial lending organizations around the country. After marrying Patrick Quigley in 1993, Patti put her financial career aside to start a career as a homemaker.

Patti became active in women's issues after her husband Patrick was killed on September 11, 2001. He was a passenger on United Flight 175, the second plane to hit the World Trade Center.

After her husband's death, Patti was overwhelmed by the enormous outpouring of emotional support from around the world. Soon after the United States invaded Afghanistan, she became aware of the vast differences between her experience as a widow and the treatment of her counterparts in Afghanistan. Struck by these disparities, Patti teamed with Susan Retik — who was also widowed on September 11 — to establish [Beyond the 11th](#), a nonprofit organization founded to support projects that provide sustainable income to Afghan widows and their families.

In 2007, with Susan's blessing, Patti shifted her focus to the young girls in Afghanistan. After working as a colleague and becoming close friends with [Razia Jan](#), Patti joined the Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation as Executive Director, to help Razia fulfill her dream of educating the next generation of Afghan people so that the cycle of poverty, despair, and terrorism can be stopped.

Katherine Rush

Speaker at the General Morning Session on Friday, April 29th



Katherine Rush is a Communications and Community Affairs Strategist. Katherine is founder of the strategic communications and public affairs firm Katherine Rush & Associates, which helps innovative leaders and organizations shape social policy and improve communities through smarter messaging and engagement strategy. Katherine is also a speech writer and freelance journalist who has written on topics in business, politics, and economics for high-level speakers and major world news organizations.

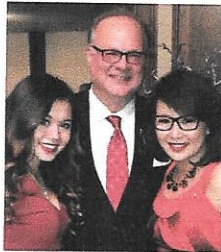
As a Rotary International Peace Scholar, Katherine attended the London School of Economics, where she studied Social Anthropology. She has a second Masters degree from Northwestern University in four-field Anthropology. Her undergraduate degree is in Economics and International Relations and from the University of Wisconsin – Madison

Joshua Williams
Speaker at the Family of Rotary Dinner on Saturday, April 30th



Joshua Williams is a Ransom Everglades high school student from South Florida who discovered his passion for philanthropy when he was 4 and a half-years-old. Believing that no child should ever go hungry, for the past ten and a half years, Joshua has been dedicated to helping to “stomp out world hunger” through his organization *Joshua’s Heart Foundation*, and he is working hard to end worldwide hunger one community at a time. He empowers and engages young people ages 2 and up to find their passion or purpose and use it for the better good. Alone we can do so much but together we can move mountains states Joshua.

Brian Jenkins
Speaker at the Breakfast/Plenary session on Saturday, April 30th



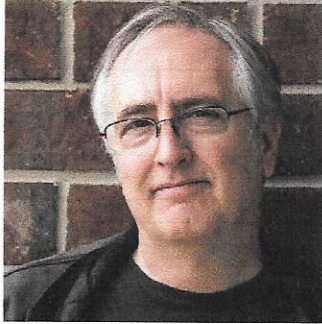
For 22 years, Brian was a news reporter and anchor on television and radio, the last 16 as a correspondent and anchor for CNN, based in Los Angeles, Tokyo and New York. His assignments included the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in Beijing in 1989, the Branch Davidian stand-off in Waco in 1993, all of the terrorist attacks in New York and subsequent trials in the 1990's, covering the United Nations Security Council, the San Francisco earthquake in 1989, coup attempts against Corazon Aquino in the Philippines in 1986-87, and the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

He then ran his own video production company for 12 years, traveling around the U.S. to create informational videos for corporations, foundations and government agencies.

As an investment banking associate for Zacks Invest, he raises money for growing companies in real estate, renewable energy, software, biotech and the restaurant industry.

Raymond Benson

Speaker at the General Session on Saturday, April 30th in the afternoon



RAYMOND BENSON is the author of 35 published titles. He is primarily known as the third—and first American—continuation author of the official James Bond novels (1996-2002). More recently, his acclaimed five-book serial, *THE BLACK STILETTO*, was optioned by ABC Studios and is in development as a television series with Mila Kunis executive producing. Raymond is also a film historian and instructor at College of DuPage, a musician, and lecturer with Daily Herald film critic Dann Gire.

Sam Amirante

Speaker at the General Session on Saturday, April 30th in the afternoon



Sam L. Amirante, a retired Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County has returned to private practice, where he concentrates in the areas of criminal and civil litigation. While a Judge, Sam Amirante was assigned to the County's Third District Courthouse in Rolling Meadows for 13 years and 3 years in the City of Chicago.

Following his admission to the Illinois Bar, he became an Assistant Public Defender participating as lead counsel in hundreds of felony and misdemeanor bench and jury trials. Sam eventually became the supervising attorney for all of Northwest Suburban Cook County. In 1978, Sam entered the private practice of law where he tried cases throughout the State of Illinois and other States and served for a Prosecutor for the Village of Norridge. That same year, together with Attorney Robert M. Motta, provided legal counsel for serial killer John Wayne Gacy.

He wrote about that experience in the bestseller, *DEFENDING A MONSTER*.