

June 2010 volume 96 - number 12

## NEWSletter

### Outgoing message from President Jackie

Dear Fellow Rotarians,



I am so honored and happy to have served as president of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. This past year has re-affirmed my belief that we live our mission. We make a difference in this community and around the world, we discuss the issues of the day and we build friendships.

The club successfully raised over \$430,000 to support the Rotary Centennial Arboretum and committed \$100,000 to restore the playground for the students at Brown Street Academy. I am proud that the Past Presidents committed nearly half of the \$430,000 reinforcing a strong legacy of giving. In addition to gathering weekly for insightful programs, we recognized monthly an individual and committee for demonstrating exceptional service through Spotlight on Service.

We started the Rotary Club of Milwaukee Scholarship program to provide funding, mentoring and tutoring for underserved City of Milwaukee high school seniors. We expanded service to veterans and reached out to community leadership organizations. We had a lot of fun at our networking hours, Done-In-Day projects, and Tyrotarian explorations. Many enjoyed summer evenings at Live at the Lakefront. The Community Classic—the first club fundraiser in many years—netted \$31,000 for the RCM Community Trust.

In addition to supporting Rotary International's effort to eradicate polio, we support various global projects across sub-Saharan Africa. Another example of our club's generosity is the addition of 11 Paul Harris fellows...a record for our club!

As this year comes to a close, I am extremely thankful for your efforts to make a difference in the community and around the world. My hat's off to the board, committee chairs and our 30 committees for doing a great job of addressing the needs of the citizens of Milwaukee and across the world. A special thanks to each of you for the wonderful support you have given me this past year and many thanks to Mary, Liz and Jenni for making my year a memorable one. Our club would not be as effective without them.

The club continues on a great trajectory. We have much more to do and under the leadership of president-elect Joe Caruso, I am confident we will continue to grow as a club. 🌀

Yours in Service Above Self,  
Jackie Herd-Barber

### Mellows named Rotary Person of the Year— Award to be presented June 22



John Mellows, Rotary Person of the Year 2010.

John Mellows, chairman and CEO of Charter Manufacturing, has been named 2010 Rotary Person of the Year by the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. Mellows will accept the award and address the club at its June 22 meeting.

The announcement was made at the RCM's May 18 meeting by Rick White, chairman of the RPY Committee.

"As is the case every year, the nominees presented to the committee are all outstanding individuals. It was a difficult task to select just one person to receive this recognition," said White. "But John Mellows clearly deserves this honor for the work he has done over a long and distinguished career."

In 1965, following service in the U.S. Navy, Mellows joined the family-owned company as manager of a newly acquired New Jersey lock washer manufacturer. At the time, Charter's sales were \$8.7million. At every point in his career, he has found ways to grow the business, often by seeing opportunity where others saw peril. Today, Charter's sales are in excess of \$1 billion.

However, what caught the attention of the committee, and club members Peter Hitler and Tom Klug who nominated him, was Mellows' ability not only to grow the business, but to grow jobs as well. As Hitler and Klug noted in their nomination, employment has more than tripled under his leadership, and his innovative approach to employee relations has created a mutual trust and loyalty to the company that is rarely found in the manufacturing sector today.

White noted that as Rotary's highest honor, the RPY is different from many awards because it seeks to honor the contribution made through an individual's profession, not through civic and philanthropic efforts. Past recipients include Edmund Fitzgerald, Norman Gill, Frederick Brengel, Sister Joel Read, Fred Lubar, Harry Quadracci and Charles McNeer. Last year's recipient was Tim Sullivan of Bucyrus International.

Nominations for thirteen individuals were considered by the committee for this year's award. 🌀

## Hot Meals for Orphans in Durban

When a group of Rotarians visited Swaziland in early April, Leni Siker left Milwaukee ahead of the rest of the group to spend a few days in Durban, South Africa touring the Jolivet Social Center, which is run by a local church. Through a simplified district grant, our club donated \$1,800 to provide hot meals for orphans at the center. 40-95 orphans come from the surrounding area to the social center for meals on a daily basis, and our donation helps provide hot meals for a whole year. While in Durban, Leni stayed with a member of the Rotary there, and was very impressed with the work being done with so little resources.

The Jolivet Social Center hopes to become self-sufficient by boring a hole for a well so that they have access to clean water, allowing them to garden and sell vegetables back to the community. Currently they have to purchase water from the government. With over half the funds in hand, they are only \$2,000 away from their goal. The World Community Service Committee plans to fill out another grant application to the district to support the well in Durban. 🌍



*Photo courtesy of Leni Siker: Orphans at the Jolivet Social Center welcome Leni.*

## Rotary Club of Milwaukee 2010-2011 Officers and Directors

*The Board of Directors recommends the following officer slate and director nominees for the Rotary year commencing on July 1, 2010.*

President: Joseph Caruso, Brecon Hill Consulting

President-Elect (2011-2012): Jeffrey Remsik, Bottom Line Marketing & Public Relations

Secretary: Mary McCormick

Treasurer: William Coleman, Coleman & Williams

Sergeant-at-Arms: Daniel Vliet, Buelow Vetter Olson Buikema & Vliet, LLC

Immediate Past President: Jacqueline Herd-Barber

RCM Community Trust Trustee: Adam Wiensch, Foley & Lardner

### Board of Director Nominees – Term Ends 2013

*The nominees will serve for three years.*

John Bernaden, Rockwell Automation

Kathleen Eilers, St. John's Communities, Inc.

Thomas Gale, Equity Commercial Real Estate, LLC

Charles James, Fitzgerald Clayton James & Kasten, Inc.

Kent Lovern, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

### Directors

*The Following directors will complete terms to which they were previously elected.*

John Clancy, Godfrey & Kahn

Michael Graverson, National Tissue Co.

Maja Jurisic, Concentra

Sarah Kimball, Kimball Communications

George Mosher

JoAnne Anton, Office of US Senator Herb Kohl

Jeff Fleming, Kingston Crossing, LLC

Pamela Garvey, Medical College of Wisconsin

Monica Pyne, Wells Fargo

Valerie Stefanich, Stowell Associates: Select Staff

The vote to elect new board will be held at the June 1st meeting. The Board also extends thanks and appreciation to those members who will be completing terms of Board Service in June. They are Donald Daugherty, Abim Kolawole, Daniel Meyer, Thomas Mirsberger, Ellen Redeker and Jeffrey Remsik.

# PHOTO gallery



*Photo courtesy of Jim Ford.* Rotarians and the Swedish Group Study Exchange team enjoyed a tour of the Harley-Davidson Museum during their early May visit.



*Photo by Todd Montgomery.* In partnership with Cardinal Stritch University and the Helen Bader Speaker Series, Connie Rice spoke to the club about racial profiling on May 18th, 2010.



Dick & Susan Hackl enjoyed the view and the fellowship at the May Networking Hour, hosted by new member Jamie Hummert at Hotel Metro on May 6th.



Ron Kuramoto, Mary McCormick, and Jim Milner recently discussed the future of the Diversity committee in the Rotary office.



*Photo by Todd Montgomery.* Over 30 Rotarians enjoyed a tour of the Basilica of St. Josaphat, including remarks from historian John Gurda, Pastor Jim Jankowski, and Rotarian Susan Rabe, on April 28th, 2010.

# CALENDAR *for the month*

## Upcoming Events

For our June Networking Hour on **Thursday, June 3rd**, Rotarians are invited to a **Mad Hot Celebration** for Danceworks Mad Hot Ballroom at **La Lune Collection Headquarters**, hosted by Mario Costantini. The celebration is **7:00-10:00 pm** and for \$15, Rotarians can enjoy food and drink, camaraderie, a silent auction, and a performance by the winning dancers of the 2010 MHBT Competition. La Lune Collection Headquarters is located at **930 E. Burleigh St., Milwaukee**.



Tour Wisconsin's flagship, the **S/V Denis Sullivan**, at the next **Tyrotarian** event at **7:30 am** on **Thursday morning, June 10!** The program will begin in the Pilot House building of Discovery World with a brief film, followed by a description of her history and current operations by the Denis Sullivan's captain and Discovery World officials, including Rotarians Joel Brennan, Terry McMahan and Barbara Velez. Above and below-decks tours of the vessel will follow a Q&A session, with the event ending by 9 am.

**Save the Date:** The 2nd annual **Service Above Self Community Classic**, benefiting the RCM Scholarship Fund, will be held on **Monday, August 2nd** at Tripoli Country Club. Foursomes are \$1,000 and individual rounds are \$250 each. Keep checking the WAVES for more info on this year's golf outing!



## SPEAKER *schedule*

**JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>** – The resurgence of the Milwaukee's downtown has been in part due to the City's effective use of the BID (Business Improvement District) statute. In the mid-90's, the Brady Street BID #11 became a poster child of neighborhood revitalization, helping bring back the neighborhood from years of decline. **Julilly Kohler** gives a brief look into that process and some of the issues that were faced, and local historian and Brady Street Fire Captain **Frank Alioto**, will share some "then and now" photographs of Brady Street—highlighting its industry, its various ethnic inflows, the slide into the hippie years and late 20th century renaissance.

**JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>** – Gardening expert **Melinda Myers** has 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening* and *The Garden Book for Wisconsin*. Join Melinda on June 8th as she discusses the "Top 5 things Wisconsin gardeners want to know!" Melinda hosts the nationally syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" TV segments which air on 50 network TV stations in the U.S., including on Today's TMJ4 in Milwaukee and "Great Lakes Gardener" seen on PBS stations throughout the country. Melinda has a master's degree in horticulture and is a certified arborist.

**JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>** – **Raquel Rutledge** is an investigative reporter with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Watchdog Team and has spent

the past year and a half uncovering widespread fraud in Wisconsin's child-care subsidy program. Raquel will discuss her recent series "Cashing in on Kids," which exposed a trail of phony companies, fake reports and shoddy oversight costing taxpayers millions of dollars. The stories prompted sweeping reforms, new laws and a crackdown on unscrupulous child-care providers. The "Cashing in on Kids" series won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting as well as a George Polk Award, the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting and the Worth Bingham Prize for Investigative Journalism.

**JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup>** – RCM will present the 2010 Rotary Person of the Year award to John Mellowes. Please see page 1 for more information.

**JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>** – At 10:30 am on Tuesday, June 29th, all Rotarians are invited to the Urban Ecology Center for a tree planting ceremony to celebrate the progress on the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. Special guest **incoming Rotary International President Ray Klingensmith** will be on hand for the tree planting and for our regular Rotary luncheon at the War Memorial, where he will give the presentation. We are pleased to announce that we will also be recognizing almost thirty new and upgraded Paul Harris Fellows at lunch, thanks to a very successful letter campaign carried out this April!



**Michael Burke, PhD**

*President  
Milwaukee Area Technical College  
700 W. State Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 297-6320  
Email: burkem@matc.edu*

Michael was introduced by Jose Vasquez.

Dr. Michael L. Burke became the ninth president of Milwaukee Area Technical College in 2010. Founded in 1912, MATC is the Midwest's largest two-year community-based technical college, serving approximately 50,000 students annually, with campuses in Downtown Milwaukee, Mequon, Oak Creek and West Allis. He served as president of San Jose City College from 2007 to 2010 and as president of North Idaho College from 1998 to 2007. He earned a doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Austin; a Master of Arts degree in English and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Houston.



**Mary Isbister**

*President  
GenMet  
10245 N. Enterprise Dr.  
Mequon, WI 53012  
(262) 238-7000  
Email: maryi@genmet.com*

Mary was introduced by Jim Kerlin.

Mary Isbister is president of GenMet, a 75 employee metal fabricating company located in Mequon. After graduating with a Bachelor's of Science degree in chemistry, she worked at Pfizer in Groton, CT for 11 years leaving a senior organizational development position when she moved with her family to Wisconsin in 1997. Mary serves on the WUWM Community Advisory Board, MMAC's Council of Small Business Executives, and as the Board Secretary for the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Mary has taught Junior Achievement classes for many years and is devoted to improving education for our young people.



**Mark Sanders**

*Assistant District Attorney  
Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office  
District #4 Police Station, 6929 W. Silver  
Spring  
Milwaukee, WI  
(414) 405-2492  
Email: mark.sanders@da.wi.gov*

Mark was introduced by Craig Harper.

Mark Sanders is a Milwaukee County Assistant District Attorney assigned to the Community Prosecution unit where he works directly with citizen and police to solve neighborhood problems. He has previously served as a supervisor in the DA's office Drug and General Crimes Units. He is an instructor with the National District Attorneys Association and a frequent lecturer on prosecution and law enforcement related topics. He is a 1990 graduate of Miami University and a 1993 graduate of Marquette University Law School (cum laude). Mark is the proud father of two daughters: Lily (age 10) and Zoë (age 8).



**Bob Slater**

*Consultant  
Robert W. Baird  
777 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 765-3940  
Email: rslater@rwbaird.com*

Bob was introduced by Dick Hackl.

Bob Slater graduated from Dartmouth in 1956. After serving in the U.S. Army he joined the Northern Trust. In 1960 he became a broker in the Chicago office of Kidder Peabody, moving to Milwaukee in 1970 as Branch Manager. Bob joined Robert Baird in 1979 as a Private Client Financial Advisor; he retired in 2009. Bob was a board member of Planned Parenthood, of Aurora Behavioral Health Services, Board Chairman of St. John's on the Lake, and is active at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. Bob and his wife, Lyn, live in Whitefish Bay, have three married children and five grandchildren.

**BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS**

*At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed two new members and expressed thanks to the proposers:*

**Scott Williams**  
American Design, Inc.  
Architecture  
*Proposer: Tracy Johnson & Kris Martinsek*

**Bill Zaferos**  
Zaferos Communications  
Marketing Services – Public Relations  
*Proposer: Joanne Anton*



## ON SERVICE SPOTLIGHT John Ridley, M.D.



John working with kids at O.W. Holmes.

John Ridley was really living a life that embodied “Service Above Self” before ever joining Rotary – he describes his family as one that strongly believed in the importance of community involvement as a pleasure, a privilege, and a duty. In fact, John joined Rotary precisely for the opportunity to serve the community in new ways.

John’s wife Terri taught at Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School for many years, and whenever O.W. Holmes needed a volunteer to read to children, help with a career day, or anything else, John was there. O.W. Holmes had the need and RCM the resources: when John joined RCM, he made an introduction between two organizations that turned out to be a natural fit. “In order for service projects to work,” John said, “you need someone at the receiving entity who is committed.” Terri and other contacts at O.W. Holmes were able to provide the necessary follow-through and implementation at the school to ensure that Rotarians’ time and effort had maximum impact.

The strong beginning between RCM and O.W. Holmes has blossomed into a sustained relationship, with Rotarians engaging O.W. Holmes students through Reading is Fundamental, the CHOICES program, one-on-one mentoring, and more. In

addition to his many Rotary and non-Rotary related activities there, John serves as the Reading is Fundamental coordinator for the school.

John is also an active participant in the monthly Conversations on Race meetings, where Rotarians and other community members meet for candid, open conversations, intended to enlarge individuals’ perspectives on other people. Four years ago, John became aware that there was a group of people in Rotary who wanted to talk about race directly instead of tip-toeing around it, and the result was Conversations on Race. John hoped it would be a seed that would spread beyond Rotary, and it has – the group now contains just as many non-Rotarians as Rotarians.

John joined Rotary for its unique service opportunities, but he finds that his service has the added benefit of deepening his connection to other Rotarians. “Some very interesting people have elected to become Rotarians,” John said, “At lunches and meetings you don’t really get a chance to know them, but in service opportunities, you get a chance to find out the interesting things they’ve done and the lives they’ve led.” John has volunteered to do bell ringing for the Salvation Army through the Done-in-a-Day committee for several years, and he recommends standing out in the cold for a couple of hours as a way to really get to know someone.

John also serves on the RCM Scholarship, Programs and Partners in Education committees, as well as Diversity and RIF, and he consistently volunteers for Done-in-a-Day activities. The Rotary Club of Milwaukee commends John for his service to the community and the club. 🌟

### Get Involved!

Inspired by John’s story? Conversations on Race meets every first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 am in room 415 of the War Memorial. For more information on other committees, contact the Rotary office.