

## Rotarians Visit Swaziland *By Liz Keuler*

In the spring of 2009, several members of the World Community Service Committee pooled personal funds with club funds to contribute \$7,000 to the McCorkindale orphanage in Manzini, Swaziland. This is a partnership with a New Zealand Rotary World Community Service group, plus Rotary Clubs in Japan, Scotland, Swaziland. The funds were matched 4:1 by the New Zealand government. Our donation was specifically intended to build a new irrigation system for the farm adjacent to the orphanage, with the goal of increasing the productivity of the farm to provide income for the orphanage.



Children at the grade school in Swaziland.

Early in April 2010, Rotarians Mary McCormick, Rick Luedke, Dan Fetterley, and Leni Siker joined District leaders to travel to Swaziland. The travelers were hosted by the Rotary Club of Manzini, a club of only 18 members which nevertheless has accomplished a great deal. Leni describes the Swazi Rotarians as a very hard working group: "They are really very committed to service," she says. The Rotary Club of Manzini is a long time partner and supporter of Manzini Youth Care, which administers the nascent farm.

RCM's relationship with Manzini Youth Care and with the orphanage offers an opportunity to build relationships person-to-person and club-to-club. A close working relationship allows Rotary to follow the money being donated, instead of donating

through the government and worrying about the possibility of corruption.

Mary, Rick, Dan and Leni visited the farm site, where a solar tower has been installed to provide electric power for the pump, which moves water from the river to the irrigation site one mile away. A reservoir basin to retain the pumped water was repaired in October 2009.

In addition to the farm, Manzini Youth Care currently runs several small businesses, established with micro-credit EU loans, geared toward sustaining MYC and job training for the Manzini youth. The visiting RCM Rotarians were treated to a tour of one such business, the Eswatini Swazi Kitchen, where Swazis make and can jams, jellies, and chutneys, as well as honey harvested from beehives at the McCorkindale Orphanage.

*continued on page 4*

## 2004 Inbound Rotary Youth Exchange Student Graduates from Carroll University

Rafael Fernandes, our 2004 inbound student from Puerto Vehlo, Brazil, will be graduating May 9th, 2010, from Carroll University, receiving a BS in Business Management and Information Technology. While at Carroll University Rafael was active in soccer and international affairs, new student orientation, and the IT department, and has been an honor student. Rafael is helping form a student exchange program between Carroll University and the Brazil State University in Rondônia, Brasil. Rafael is an active participant in the Milwaukee Rotaract Club and has done much to serve our community.

Rafael's parents Fernando and Ana Rita, his sister Marianna, two aunts and a cousin will be coming to Milwaukee to attend the graduation. We hope they will join us at one of our Tuesday lunch meetings while they are here.

To send a note of congratulations, contact Kurt Mueller. ☎

## Former MPS Superintendents Share Lessons Learned with Rotarians

On April 13, 2010, in conjunction with Marquette and the Partnership for Public Schools in Milwaukee, four former MPS superintendents – Howard Fuller, Spence Korte, Bob Peterkin and Barbara Horton – shared lessons they learned during their tenures that could benefit new superintendent Dr. Greg Thornton. The program kicked off with an introduction by Mike Spector and was moderated by Mike Gousha.

Mr. Gousha began by asking what lessons the panelists learned during their tenure as superintendents that might be applicable today. Mr. Peterkin's greatest take-away was that "we don't spend enough time actually thinking about teaching and learning in classrooms," and that it's hard to unite Milwaukee's various communities around schools. Mr. Fuller's response was, "I was allegedly in charge but I definitely was not in control." He later explained that he did not have the power to hire and fire staff as he saw appropriate. Mr. Fuller also described a philosophical obstacle that existed during his tenure: that the leadership didn't truly believe that all in Milwaukee could learn, particularly low-income African American children.

Ms. Horton shared her opinion that the district has still not learned what it takes to attract great teachers and principals, which are integral to a good school district. Mr. Korte described his greatest lesson as, "Everyone has a really great union except the children."

Mr. Gousha then asked Ms. Horton and Mr. Korte whether they felt a new superintendent could be successful under current conditions. Ms. Horton shared her experiences as both a board member and an acting superintendent, concluding that generally board members do not support the superintendent the way they should. Mr. Korte followed up by saying, "you get the government you deserve, and that's certainly true in the election of school board officials. A small dedicated group can seat someone while the rest of us are asleep at the switch." Mr. Korte suggested that school board elections should be city-wide to avoid the struggle for resources between districts. Board members should also be prohibited from "being in the resolution business," instead focusing on hiring the very best leadership.

Mr. Gousha asked the entire panel what contributions Rotarians could make to moving education forward in Milwaukee. Mr. Pe-



Former MPS Superintendents Howard Fuller, Spence Korte, Bob Peterkin, and Barbara Horton at RCM on April 13.

terkin advocated for a system of accountability for superintendents, board members, schools, and teachers. "Right now," he said, "the people in the system held accountable are the students." Mr. Korte asked the room, "What would you do if these results came back from your children's school?" He encouraged Rotarians to be advocates in the way that many Milwaukeeans cannot. Mr. Fuller suggested we broaden our view to all schools in Milwaukee and the area, saying that we need to develop an "educational ecosystem."

Mr. Gousha then opened up the floor to questions from the audience. The room erupted into applause when Mr. Fuller answered John Walker's question about what it takes to get parents involved by saying, "We've got to do what we've got to do in spite of some of these parents." He urged audience members not to fall into the trap of thinking that progress can be made only with the full participation of parents. Questions from Rotarians Todd Montgomery and Sister Kathleen O'Brien also engendered lively debates about accountability and what could motivate change in the teachers union.

It was one of the most-well received programs this year, with 97% of Rotarians rating the speakers and the topic as "Excellent" or "Very Good." 🌟

# PHOTO gallery



*Photo Credit: Peter Berscb.* Fritz Usinger glances food at the Reinhart Food Show on April 13th. Thank you to all the Rotarians that volunteered!



Tim Reardon spoke to Rotarians about fraud on April 6th.



Rotaractors volunteered with Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers to do river clean up on April 17th.



Rotarians sorted donated clothing and home goods at Corporate Care on April 15th. Thank you for volunteering!



Rebecca Smith spoke to Rotary on March 30th about aquatic invasive species such as Asian Carp.

# CALENDAR *for the month*

## Upcoming Events

The May Networking Hour will be on **Thursday, May 6th, 5:30 – 7:30 pm** at **Hotel Metro, 411 East Mason Street**. Celebrate spring with your fellow Rotarians in Hotel Metro's rooftop garden. Tours of the hotel will also be available.

**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!

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## Rotarians Visit Swaziland *continued from page 1*

The Milwaukee Rotarians also had the chance to visit a grade school that recently received donated desks from the Rotary Club of Manzini. They were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the children, many of whom get to school by walking 25km or more over dirt roads. They were surprised and touched by how little it took to engage the kids – “they were excited just by us taking photos,” Mary said.

The RCM trip included a visit to a local hospital and AIDS clinic, where the travelers witnessed the widespread effect of HIV-AIDS in a very poor country like Swaziland, which faces over 50% unemployment. The visiting RCM members experienced the poverty, need, and also the beauty of Swaziland first-hand. They returned with a deeper sense of the problems facing the region and the ways in which Rotary can help. 🌍

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## SPEAKER *schedule*

**MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>** – Data security is a rapidly growing market driven by increasing exchange of information, government mandates and more sophisticated information thieves. Protection of sensitive corporate and customer data is a top priority for companies who want to avoid the financial costs and potential negative impact to corporate brand as a result of a data breach. Is your sensitive data really safe? PKWARE, a Milwaukee-based company, is the industry leader in providing data-centric security and compression solutions. **V. Miller Newton**, President & CEO, will share his insights on today's data security challenges and what PKWARE is doing to help companies solve them.

**MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>** – Armed Forces Week is going to be celebrated in Milwaukee this year on May 8-15, with our Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club participating. Our club will participate in this annual tribute on Tuesday, May 11. We will begin with a concert by students from Racine Lutheran High School playing music from all services at 11:30 a.m., followed by the National Anthem and the posting of the Colors by a unit from the Navy Operations Support Center, Milwaukee. Our luncheon speaker is **Navy Admiral Anthony E. Gaiani**, Commander, Navy Region Midwest, Great Lakes, Illinois, who is bringing an important message with him.

**MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>** – Twice named as one of the top 10 most influential lawyers in California, **Connie Rice**, J.D. is renowned for her unconventional approaches to tackling problems of inequity and exclusion. At the invitation of the LAPD Chief, Connie investigated the biggest police corruption scandal in Los Angeles history and led the internal commission to reform LAPD's training and incentives system. Based on her diverse experiences and methods, join Connie over lunch as she discusses the nature and impact of racial profiling. After lunch, she will present her personal leadership journey, and the successes, challenges, and lessons learned through her litigation and non-litigation work.

**MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>** – On May 25 Rotary will Celebrate Milwaukee Schools. In the morning Rotarians will visit 18 partner schools. Then school representatives will join us for our program and lunch at the War Memorial Center. **Joseph Tucker**, the founder and president of Victory Personnel Services, is our featured speaker. In 2007 his company was named to the Inc 500 list of America's fastest growing private companies. In 2010 his company was named one of the top 100 African American businesses in America by DiversityBusiness.com. Joe will speak about education's value in work, a passionate concern of his.



**Mark Benskin**

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Mark was introduced by Jon Dehlinger.

In his position as Managing Director for Harris Private Bank, Mark Benskin is responsible for coordinating the delivery of banking, trust, investment and wealth transfer services to affluent families in Wisconsin. Mark focuses on providing comprehensive wealth and banking solutions to corporate executives, medical and legal professionals, retirees and business owners. Mark has a Bachelor of Arts from Northern Illinois University and advanced degrees from the University of Iowa Law School and Golden Gate University School of Taxation. Mark is also the Vice President of the University Club and an ambassador for the Ronald McDonald House.



**Rob Grede**

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Rob was introduced by Jude Werra.

Robert Grede, BA, MBA, is a graduate of DePauw University and The Emory University School of Business. In 1990, after 12 years in advertising working with premier marketers like McDonald's, Procter & Gamble, and Union Carbide, he founded The Grede Company, consultants in business planning and strategic growth. Clients range from start-up operations to Fortune 500 firms. Rob has been on the faculty of Carroll College and Marquette University, is a syndicated columnist, frequent contributor to magazines, and author of the best selling Naked Marketing – The Bare Essentials and The 5 Kick-Ass Strategies (Every Business Needs).



**Jamie Hummert**

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Jamie was introduced by Fred Bersch.

A 30-year veteran of the hospitality industry, Jamie Hummert is responsible for the concept, design and operations of Hotel Metro. Prior to his work for Hotel Metro, Jamie was a founding partner of Chicago-based hotel development and management company Coastal Hotel Group. Jamie was a founding Board member of the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center, and has served on the Milwaukee Ballet Board, the Board of Trustees for Mount Mary College, and the Board of Directors for the Milwaukee Yacht Club. In his spare time, Jamie enjoys offshore sail boat racing, cross country skiing, and yoga.



**Anne Reed**

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Anne was introduced by Jim Plunkett.

On January 11, Anne Reed began her new job as executive director of the Wisconsin Humane Society. Anne was a lawyer at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren SC for 28 years before joining WHS. Her new role has been an exhilarating immersion course in animal welfare, and in the nationally known programs offered at the Wisconsin and Ozaukee Humane Societies. Anne is also a board member and former board president of Meta House, Inc. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and Cornell Law School, and lives in Milwaukee with her husband, daughter, three cats, and an Airedale Terrier puppy.



**Jeff Tredo**

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Jeff was introduced by Eric Isbister.

Since graduating from the School of Architecture & Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee in 1994, Jeff Tredo has been integrally involved with several of Milwaukee's foremost firms in the planning and design of educational, worship, multi-family housing, corporate and industrial facilities. In 2006 Jeff partnered with colleague Jason Korb in the establishment of Korb Tredo Architects. Jeff served as the building committee chair for St. Marcus School's 2003 building project, is a past board member of Hope Christian Schools, and is involved with mentoring middle-school students. He enjoys sailing, snowboarding, bicycling, motorcycling, and playing soccer with wife Michelle and daughter Kayla.



## ON SERVICE SPOTLIGHT John C. Walker



In 2001, John Walker went on a trip to India with Rick Luedke and other Rotarians for the National Immunization Day for Polio. He found it to be a very moving experience, both from the standpoint of the need he saw there, and the great work being done by Rotary Clubs to meet that need.

Through that experience, John was inspired to join the Rotary International Foundation committee. During his chairmanship in 2002, the committee successfully campaigned to have a donation added to the biannual statements, in keeping with the “Every Rotarian Every Year” goal of \$100 donation from each member. This measure succeeded in greatly increasing RI Foundation contributions from members. He also began the committee’s practice of sending a yearly mailing to members informing them of their current giving status.


John also serves a vital role in the Brown Street Academy project. When RCM began looking for a centennial project, the Diversity committee decided to propose the Brown Street Schoolyard, and John and Jim Milner wrote the proposal. The project was proposed in 2007 as a centennial project, and RCM committed \$100,000 toward renovation of the schoolyard.

Having made a commitment to the project, John was caught up in the larger Greater Johnson’s Park Initiative, which includes Alice’s Garden and Johnson’s Park as well as the Brown Street Academy schoolyard. John now serves on the Greater Johnson’s Park Advisory Council and the Roots of Progress Capital Campaign. He is

dedicated to keeping the project on track and bringing opportunities to support it to other committees such as Partners in Education and Done-in-a-Day.

John is quick to recognize the work of his fellow Rotarians. “I don’t want to take credit for what was really a group effort,” he says. He mentioned the work of Paul Hultgren, Sarah Fletcher, Bonnie Bellehumeur, Jim Milner and other committee members for their help and work on the Brown Street Academy schoolyard and the most recent development, the upcoming Brown Street Carnival.

John says it has always been easy to enlist his help when education is the topic. When he first joined Rotary in 1981, he got involved with education committee, participating in the CHOICES program and career talks at Riverside High School. He finds his Brown Street Academy rewarding because, in his words, “they are so grateful for what we do over there. It doesn’t seem like much to us, but it’s a lot to them.”

John serves on the Community Leadership Development committee as well as Diversity and the RI Foundation committee. The Rotary Club of Milwaukee commends John for his service to the community, the RI Foundation, and the club. 

### Get Involved!

Inspired by John’s story? To join the RI Foundation committee, contact chair Tom Plantenberg. To join the Community Leadership Development committee, contact chair Bob Deahl. To join the Diversity committee, contact chair Ron Kuramoto.

## BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS

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

**Michael Burke**  
Milwaukee Area Technical College  
Education  
*Proposer: Jose Vasquez*

**Mary Isbister**  
GenMet  
Manufacturing – Metal Fabrication  
*Proposer: Jim Kerlin*

**Mark Sanders**  
Milwaukee County  
Law Practice – District Attorney  
*Proposers:  
Craig Harper & Ted Hutton*

**Robert Slater**  
Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc  
Investment – Wealth Management  
*Proposer: Dick Hackl*

The board also welcomes returning member JoAnn Weishan.