

# Midland Rotary News



**Jon Lauderbach**

## President's Message

I would be remiss if I did not begin this month's newsletter by noting the passing of our friend and longtime member, Dr. Betty Jones. Betty left us better than she found us, and her commitment to improving the lives of others serve as a perfect example of service above self. Thank you, Betty. Our prayers are with Preston and the entire Jones family. We are canceling Thursday's meeting to allow Rotarians the opportunity to attend Betty's funeral April 6.

April is Rotary's Maternal and Child Health Month. It is estimated that close to 6 million children under the age of 5 die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation, which can all be prevented. Rotary clubs and districts around the world work to ensure access to quality health care for vulnerable mothers and children so they can have long-serving opportunities for a healthy future. Some of our members locally have supported organizations such as Gateway Health Care that break down barriers to quality health care. This month, we should think about what each of us can do.

April is also – thanks to Mother Nature's February curve ball – Pancake Supper month! There are still plenty of volunteer opportunities for the April 20 event. Please redouble the effort to be there and pitch in. We will not have our regular meeting that day, and our Board meeting scheduled for that day will be rescheduled accordingly. On the remaining two Thursdays in April, we will have Classification Talks by Tony Stamas and Nicole Ford. It's an action-packed month, for sure!

Thank you all for your commitment to Rotary and everything you do for our club. See you soon!

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2...Upcoming meetings
- 2-3...New member spotlights
- 3.....Bay City Rotary invitation
- 3....Grove Park cleanup
- 4..... President-elect letter
- 6.....PETS conference coverage
- 6.... Diversity, equity and inclusion essay
- 11.....March is Clean Water and Sanitation Prevention month

## PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECIPIENTS

Jim Bakeman  
 Jeff DeHaven  
 John Zimmerman (+1)  
 Michael Goad  
 Lee Smith (+4)  
 Kristin Stehouwer (+9)



## CLUB LINKS

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/](http://www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/)

**Twitter** <https://twitter.com/MidNoonRotary>

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/](http://www.instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/)

**Official logos/Rewards:**  
<http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### April 13

Tony Stamas  
 Classification

### April 20

Pancake Supper

### April 27

Nicole Ford  
 Classification

### May 4

Spirit of  
 Rotary

### May 11

Stacey  
 Gannon  
 Classification

### May 18

TBD

### May 25

TBD

### June 1

Dr. Reva  
 Curry to  
 present

Rotary  
 Scholarships

### June 8 (TBD)

### June 15

Business Speaker

### June 22

Business Speaker

### June 29

Pres. Lauderbach's  
 last meeting of his  
 term as president

## PANCAKE SUPPER

The 43rd Annual Pancake Supper is April 20. This is our club's largest fundraiser and all Rotarians are expected to attend from 2 to 8:30-9 p.m. The actual event will take place from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the H.H. Dow High School Cafeteria.

We will not be holding a regular meeting on this day and need all Rotarians to report to Dow High by 2 p.m.

SEND NEWSLETTER IDEAS TO  
[KATHRYNHESLING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KATHRYNHESLING@GMAIL.COM)



GET TO KNOW THIS

## ROTARIAN

LINDA SIEMSEN



**ORIGINALLY FROM:** Peotone, Illinois. I grew up on a farm and showed Holstein dairy cows in 4-H

**SPONSOR:** Jim Hohmeyer

**CURRENTLY READING:** *What Price Victory?* by David Weber

**FUN FACT:** I have prisms in my glasses and homeschooled my daughter for 13 years, K-12

**WHY I JOINED ROTARY:** To learn about our community and work to improve it

**WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY:** I am most looking forward to meeting new people



- Master first impressions
- Get along with almost everyone!
- Time management hacks

Featuring Speaker  
Michael Angelo Caruso



# Make the Connection

Advance Your Career and Community

May 3, 2023  
\$50 per person  
Public Event!



8 am Power Networking & Coffee!  
9 am Masterclass  
Noon Lunch Provided



Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/makeadvance>

Presented by The Rotary Club of Bay City

## YOU'RE INVITED!

The Rotary Club of Bay City has invited members of our club to a May 3 event, "Make The Connection: Advance Your Career and Community," presented by Michael Angelo Caruso.

Michael Angelo Caruso is one of the most effective sales coaches in America.

He teaches leaders and salespeople how to be better presenters. He's a valued communication consultant to companies and organizations all over the world.

For more information, visit [www.michaelangelocaruso.com](http://www.michaelangelocaruso.com)

## Grove Park Cleanup set for May 6

Save the date: May 6 will be our annual spring cleanup at Grove Park.

Each spring and fall, our Rotarians meet up to help clean up Grove Park.

Keep an eye out for this year's sign-up sheet, and we look forward to seeing everyone at Grove Park on May 6!



GET TO KNOW THIS

### ROTARIAN

ADAM FERMAN



**ORIGINALLY FROM:** I grew up a a youngster in Farwell, MI and attended high school in Goldwater, MI.

**SPONSOR:** Matt Smith

**CURRENTLY READING:** *Get Out of Your Own Way* by Dave Hollis

**FUN FACT:** I love to go fly fishing (but admittedly I haven't made time for it in a few years) and my wife and I, Rachele, love to be outdoors. Hiking and being near water is our happy place.

**WHY I JOINED ROTARY:** I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself and align myself with a community based organization. Rotary was a good fit for those needs.

**WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY:** Working to give back to a community that has given us a ton of joy...and slinging pancakes at the annual pancake supper!



# President-elect pens note from PETS



*By Angela Cole*

Dear Rotarians,

In March, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the Great Lakes Rotary PETS (Presidents-Elect Training Seminar) in Kalamazoo. I was expecting a long three days of sitting in a classroom, but instead, I had an experience that was both fun and inspiring. From the moment I arrived, I felt welcomed and part of the Rotary family. I had the chance to meet Rotarians from all over our district, across the United States, Canada, and the world. Everyone was smiling and so helpful.

The program was well-organized and provided practical information that prepared me for my leadership year as a Rotary club president. The curriculum was based on years of experience and feedback from previous attendees, and the trainers were engaging and knowledgeable. What really stood out to me were the stories of Rotary's impact. I laughed and cried as I heard story after story.

As a result, I returned from PETS a different person. The experience increased my awareness of the energy, numbers of people involved, and the breadth of our impact as Rotarians worldwide.

In those three days, I was inspired to be a better leader, a better Rotarian, and a better human.

As an incoming president, I learned some basics like how to run a board meeting and was encouraged to pick a theme and project for the year.

We discussed Rotary International's theme, "Creating Hope for the Future," and why it was picked this year. More importantly, I was reminded to be myself, to leave nothing on the table, and to give my all.

In closing, I want to share the feeling of the Great Lakes Rotary PETS with all of you. I want everyone who visits our club or events to feel welcomed, energized, encouraged to be themselves, and inspired by what matters to them.

Let's add a fifth item to our four-way test for the 2023-2024 Rotary year as we ask ourselves:

Is it the truth?



## President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS)

A number of Rotary Club of Midland Rotarians attended last month's President-Elect Training Seminar in Kalamazoo. These photos are courtesy of Angela Cole.



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**



# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

## Mirrors, Windows and Doors

By Sharon Mortensen



As we continue to learn about diversity, equity and inclusion, let's examine a concept used in children's literature. The concept is referred to as mirrors, windows and doors. Children read to learn about the world that is familiar to them (mirrors) and a world they have not seen before (windows). Children can immerse themselves in a book to more fully explore the world (doors).

Educator and nonprofit founder, Emily Style said, "education needs to enable the student to look through window frames in order to see the realities of others and into mirrors in order to see her/his own reality reflected... The delightful truth is that sometimes when we hear another out, glancing through the window of their humanity, we can see our own image reflected in the glass of their window. The window becomes a mirror!"

Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop shared more on this concept when she stated, "Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created and recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience."

Let's explore the idea of mirrors, windows and doors and see how this relates to Rotary. Mirrors reflect our image; they allow us to see ourselves. Sometimes when looking in a mirror, though, we notice something we had not seen before so mirrors can serve as an opportunity to pause and see something different.

For children, seeing a character who is like them in some way can build connection and a sense of belonging. It can be hard when children do not find themselves reflected in the books they read, or they are portrayed in stereotypical ways. Dr. Bishop has said that children "learn a powerful lesson about how they are devalued in society" when this takes place.


Our Rotary clubs typically mirror the communities in which they are located. However, are some not reflected in your club's membership? How can we welcome all demographics of our community into our clubs? How can we make sure our clubs are also windows, allowing us to learn from those who may not be like us in some way?

## DEI, continued...

Turning back to children’s literature, we want children to experience a world different from their own. We want them to have a window into the reality of others. Some children’s books will link the familiar to a different view of the world. For example, if a book tells the story of a family whose dog dies, that may be a mirror of what a child has experienced. However, if the story is about a family from a different racial or ethnic background whose dog died, it also serves as a window. As Rotary clubs, how can we offer a window into a world different than our own? We can do this through speakers, through having members from different backgrounds share their stories, or through engaging in projects with Rotary clubs from other countries.

When it comes to the concept of doors, Rotary truly offers an opportunity to journey into a world of service and be forever changed. I think about the recent Rotary District 6310 Interact trip to the Dominican Republic. Randy Ettema and the other chaperones as well as those 18 high school students walked through a door that allowed them to be immersed in a world different from their own. While we may not be able to travel to have this experience, reading about our fellow Rotarians from around the globe, attending Rotary conferences at the district, zone or international level, and partnering with clubs from around the globe on projects can help provide immersive experiences.


As we think about ways to be welcoming and inclusive, let’s remember the concept of mirrors, windows, and doors. We want our clubs to reflect all the demographics of our community. We want windows to provide opportunities to see experiences different than our own. And we want to walk through doors to immerse ourselves in the opportunities that Rotary International provides.



**WE ARE ALL WELCOME**

**ALL**

- ages
- sizes
- races
- abilities
- religions
- ethnicities
- nationalities
- sexual orientations
- immigration statuses
- socio-economic backgrounds
- gender expressions & identities



@changemakervanburen

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT INCLUDED IN OUR CLUB'S NEWSLETTER?? EMAIL IDEAS TO [KATHRYNHESSLING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kathrynhessling@gmail.com)



Photo by Joseph Tim Mung'Etia © Rotary Club of Miri, Design layout by Gilbert Thien.

**APRIL DESIGNATION IS**

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH**

*“What is the value of the life of one child saved? No one will ever know, but if the child were our own, the price tag would be marked: Not for sale - this life is invaluable.”* 1979-80 James L. Bomar Jr



**Rotary**

**TAKE ACTION:** Join a Project

# Youth peace building in South Sudan



*By Gail Hoffman*

In 2018, Rotary Club of Midland and District 6310 committed to international outreach. In addition to water and sanitation, a new focus on peacebuilding had emerged; specifically, in South Sudan.

Honorary Rotarian and 2015 Rotary Peace Fellow Jeanne Lound Schaller, and Gail Hoffman, began working with Rotarian Randy Ettema, District Grants Chair, on a Global Grant for Peace within South Sudan.

The project — an alignment of Rotary, Nonviolent Peaceforce, and NewGen Peacebuilders/Mothering across Continents — began in earnest in 2019. Through our connections with Nonviolent Peaceforce, we established a relationship with Rotarians in Juba, South Sudan (capital city) in collaboration with Patricia Shafer, Ex. Dir. of NewGen. We were off to a great start until the Covid pandemic forced the closing of the South Sudan borders, and the project was put on hold in May of 2020.

My husband, Tom Lane, and I attended the Presidential Peace Conference and Rotary International Convention in June. As we were traveling from one session to another, we ran into two of the Juba Rotarians. They had just attended one of Patricia's Peacebuilding sessions. Long story short, the five of us met to discuss a restart.

As mentioned in the Peace & Conflict Prevention/Transformation article February's newsletter, one of our projects is "Peace Education/Training in South Sudan." The following is an update from the program manager of NewGen Peacebuilders.

*Dear Gail: I hope that you are doing well. I have heard so many wonderful things about you from Patricia Shafer. My name is Jelena Jevtić and I am Program Manager for NewGen Peacebuilders (NGP). I am very excited to be in charge of the NGP South Sudan 2023 program. I am reaching out to share an update and get connected with you. 😊 For a few months now, we have been "firing on all cylinders" trying to figure out the program logistics, content, participants, etc. It's been exciting in all the best ways!*

***As things stand, we are going to be delivering the NGP program to and working with 100 high school students, alumni, and Rotarians in South Sudan.*** We will recruit students from five high schools in Juba to be our main pool of participants. We will also invite around 15 alumni of our program to come back as conversation guides/mentors and several Rotarians to join in and work on their own peace project. We will definitely have an interesting mix of participants, which will be fruitful for the students' experience and their peace projects.



## PEACE, continued...

*We were actually supposed to be in South Sudan in the last couple of weeks in March for program delivery, but we have now postponed the program to mid-May due to some overlap with the exam schedule.*

*The new term will be starting in May, so we should be good to go without any interruptions. We have been working with a local team on ground in Juba and they have been so helpful with figuring out the schedule, checking out venues, and recruiting students.*

*Once we officially confirm the dates, we will finalize the logistics of our workshop in Juba. I will provide you with another update at that point. Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime. Thank you so, so much for your support and passion for peacebuilding.*



## COLE, continued...

Is it fair to all concerned?  
 Will it build goodwill and better friendships?  
 Will it be beneficial to all concerned?  
 Will it be fun?

Let's have fun this upcoming year and make a positive impact on those around us! Thank you for allowing me to share my experience at the Great Lakes Rotary PETS. I look forward to serving as your 2023-2024 president in a few short months.

Yours in Rotary,  
 Angela M. Cole