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### Jim and Judy Ford Scholarship

*By the Rotary Office*

In 2017, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee will award the first Jim and Judy Ford Scholarship.

As active participants in RCM Scholarship Program since its inception in 2009, Jim and Judy have seen first-hand the benefits of providing financial and mentoring assistance to the RCM Scholars. Most recently Jim and Past President Kathie Eilers mentored Aaliyah Rodgers, the first Gordy and Betty Smith Scholar, who will graduate in the spring of 2017 from UW-Madison with a degree in nursing.



*Jim and Judy Ford.*

The Fords created an endowed fund with an initial gift of \$105,000 and directed that \$4,500 annually will go to the RCM Scholarship Program. Jim says:

*“As most of RCM’s scholarships are awarded to students who are likely to be among the first in their families to attend college, combining mentoring with financial assistance is very important—and we have seen it work. So when Mary McCormick asked if we would consider creating an annual scholarship, it was an easy “yes” for us. We’d love to see other Rotarians do the same.”*

Jim, the President of Motivational Marketing, has been a Rotarian since 1976. He has had many wonderful Rotary experiences including participating in a Group Study Exchange with Sweden and leading an exchange with clubs in Taiwan. Judy enjoyed a long career at We Energies after having been a high school math teacher.

Thank you, Jim and Judy! 🌀

### RCM Scholar Graduates College

*By Tracey Sparrow, RCM Scholarship Mentor*

Dani Cortes is a Rotary scholar success story! Dani began her college career at Carroll College. During her first few years at Carroll, Dani took a variety of courses and explored many different subjects. One of the classes she took was a documentary film making class and she was hooked! She knew that this was the direction she wanted to go for her career and recognized that Carroll College was probably not the best place for her.



*RCM scholar Dani with her mentor Tracey Sparrow.*

After researching academic offerings and scholarships, Dani decided to attend Columbia College in Chicago, which has a strong documentary filmmaking program. Dani has had the opportunity to make several documentaries and is currently working on a piece about immigration. Dani has had several internships as well, that allowed her to produce short, issue focused films.

After graduation, she will be working with 371 Productions – many of you are familiar with their work through the Precious Lives Project. I know that Dani will be a success in her chosen field. Not only have I enjoyed seeing her documentary work, but I have admired her tenaciousness and her commitment to completing her education. We should feel proud that Dani is one of our Scholars!

Congratulations, Dani! 🌀

## Outstanding Participation 2016

Once again it's time to celebrate those with 100% participation in 2016 - those who have attended 50 or more Rotary activities throughout the year. Members receive participation credits by attending our Tuesday Luncheons and committee meetings, as well as social, Tyrotarian and volunteer events. Also, remember that Rotarians are welcome to visit any of the 34,000 clubs around the world which is a great way to meet fellow Rotarians and gain more participation credits.

<b>47 Years</b> Paul Meyer	<b>13 Years</b> Fred Bersch	Jeff Nelson Sister Kathleen O'Brien	<b>3 Years</b> John Bernaden Maureen Bradley Lloyd Dickinson Mike Kellman Jerry Stepaniak Pat Swanson Dan Vliet
<b>27 Years</b> By Foster	<b>12 Years</b> John Wermuth	<b>8 Years</b> Jon Dehlinger	<b>2 Years</b> Steve Chevalier Pat Cronin Ryan Daniels Kent Lovern
<b>26 Years</b> Jim Ford	<b>11 Years</b> Tom Angerer Larry Bonney Jim Miller Phil Vollrath	<b>7 Years</b> David Baum Dave Carter Dan Fetterley John Hein Eric Isbister Dave McClurg Kim Schaffer	<b>1 year</b> Charles Birts Janine Kolbeck Paula Penebaker Bill Robison Fred Royal
<b>21 Years</b> Jim Hunter	<b>10 Years</b> Jim Barry Tom Gale Charlie James Rick Mandel Jill Pelisek Thelma Sias Barbara Velez	<b>6 Years</b> Bob Slater Arthur Wasserman	
<b>20 Years</b> Harry Drake Larry Clancy	<b>9 Years</b> Bill Coleman Bill DeLind Kathie Eilers Dan Nelson	<b>5 Years</b> John Beckwith Beth Fetterley Heller	
<b>15 Years</b> Jackie Herd-Barber Chris Jaekels		<b>4 Years</b> Ann Navin George Solveson	
<b>14 Years</b> Joe Caruso Ted Hutton Detlef Moore			

## Thank You Proposers

Thank you to the following members who proposed one or more new members in 2016. Special thanks to Ryan Daniels who brought in four new members! 🌟

Keith Baisden  
Jim Barry III  
Dave Bishop  
Maureen Bradley  
Margaret Crawford  
Ryan Daniels (4)  
Kathie Eilers (2)

Beth Heller  
By Foster  
Kris Hinrichs  
Chris Holmes  
Matt Hunter  
Joan Kessler  
Julilly Kohler (2)

Mary McCormick  
Jim Miller  
Mike Paddock  
Janet Protasiewicz  
Kim Schaffer  
Roger Smith  
Patricia Swanson

## Johnsons Park Nominated for 2017 MANDI Award

Every year the Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation (MANDI) celebrates the successful efforts of those who revitalize neighborhoods and strengthen our community.

This year Johnsons Park, a major initiative of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, was named a finalist for the 2017 MANDI "Brewers Community Foundation Public Space Award" that recognizes a public space that helps build the community. Johnsons Park was created through a partnership with the Center for Resilient Cities and Milwaukee County Parks and included upgrades and addition of facilities that promote recreation, arts and community gatherings. Johnsons Park was officially unveiled on Thursday, June 23rd with many Rotarians, community leaders and neighbors in attendance.

Stay tuned for voting information to select Johnsons Park as the recipient of the Brewers Community Foundation Public Space Award! 🌀



*John Walker performance stage at Johnsons Park.*

## Set Sail with Fellow Rotarians on the Danube River

Cruise the Danube River Cruise aboard the five star MS Amadeus Royal for a seven night cruise visiting four European countries along the Danube in September 2017.

This 70 cabin ship will carry Rotarians and other select national community leaders to Passau, Melk, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and Linz. The cost is all-inclusive with roundtrip airfare from Milwaukee to Munich, one night hotel stay in Munich, superb dining with all meals, quality red and white wines, city tours and daily onboard music performances PLUS the Captain's Gala Dinner.

If our Club generates 16 reservations the tour provider will donate \$3400 to the RCM Scholarship Fund. If we generate 31 reservations, the Scholarship Fund will receive \$6800!

Prices start at about \$4,000 if booked by March 31, 2017 (There are additional fees should you choose an upper deck or suite category). You can also book an optional post-cruise stay in Prague for three nights at \$799 per person and includes transportation from the ship to Prague.



*Danube River Cruise Ship.*

Departure date is September 28, 2017. For more information, please contact the Rotary office. 🌀

## RCM Holiday Party

Thank you to all the Rotarians and guests who joined us at our 2016 Holiday Party. Special thanks to Dan Nelson for hosting it at 600 East Cafe and the office of Nelson Schmidt.



*Rotarians Roy Peterson and Steve Godfrey along with guest Ken Gaschk.*



*Rotarian Rachel Larrivee and husband Scott, Rotarian Barbara Velez and husband William.*



*Rotarians Ann Navin and Beth Heller along with Rotaract Member Janine Kolbeck.*

### **SPEAKER** *schedule*

**JANUARY 3rd - Rob Henken**, President of the Public Policy Forum presents their recent report: A Fork in the Road? This research finds that local streets, highways, bridges, and buses owned by the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County have substantial investment needs, and that those needs will be more difficult to meet as overall financial pressures limit the amount of borrowing both governments can pursue.

**JANUARY 10th - Dave Haynes**, editorial page editor of Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, will interview **Doug Poland** and **Ruth Greenwood** of the Campaign Legal Center. In November a three-judge panel in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin struck down Wisconsin's state assembly district map. The Court found the evidence of a large "efficiency gap" persuasive in determining that the state assembly plan produced a large and durable gerrymander. What is the efficiency gap standard? Will the decision hold up on appeal to the US Supreme Court? Poland, Greenwood and Haynes will help us understand. This is a joint program with the Milwaukee Press Club.

**JANUARY 17th - Rick Graber** will discuss the history and mission of one of our community's greatest assets, The Lynde

and Harry Bradley Foundation. Building a stronger Milwaukee always has been and always will be a core part of the Foundation's mission. Since 1986 after the sale of Allen Bradley to Rockwell, the Foundation has made over \$300 million in grants to local organizations. Rick will explore the unique philosophy and approach to Bradley's grant-making and will discuss several local grantees who are making a real difference in our community every day.

**JANUARY 24th** - In 2016 the Government Accountability Board was dismantled and replaced with two distinct commissions: the Wisconsin Ethics Commission and Wisconsin Elections Commission. **Steve Walters**, Senior Producer of WisconsinEye, will interview **Mike Haas** of the Election Commission and **Brian Bell** of the Ethics Commission to learn what this might mean for Wisconsin citizens. This program will be live streamed. This is a joint program with the Milwaukee Press Club.

**JANUARY 31st - Michael Knetter**, President & CEO of the UW Foundation returns to Rotary to share his vision of the 2017 economic outlook.

# WELCOME *new members*



## **Joe Armeli**

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Joe Armeli is a Business Solutions Manager for Johnson Controls. He currently serves customers in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa helping them become more sustainable and create efficient operations. He was born in Milwaukee and after graduating from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor with a degree in Economics, Joe moved home to begin his career at Johnson Controls, where he has held various roles for 8+ years. Joe lives in Hales Corners with wife Christa, and 10-month old son Anthony. In addition to spending time with his family, Joe is a passionate sports fan and enjoys traveling and cooking in his free time.



## **Audra Brennan**

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Audra Brennan is the Strategic Philanthropy Director for the Northwestern Mutual Foundation. She oversees the Childhood Cancer Program which provides financial support and engages the company's employees and financial representatives to accelerate the search for cures to pediatric cancer. Audra has extensive experience in the non-profit and public sector, including roles with Milwaukee Succeeds, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, the City of Milwaukee and the Congressional Budget Office in Washington D.C. Audra graduated from Northwestern University and the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy. She and her husband Joel live in Brewers Hill with their two children.



## **Leah Fiasca**

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Project Director  
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Leah joined the Greater Milwaukee Committee in 2011 as the Director of Membership Engagement and since March of 2012 has served the agency's Project Director, working closely with the GMC and GMC partner initiatives. These initiatives include Teachtown MKE, Reimagining High Schools, MKE Fellows, and Milwaukee Succeeds. Leah came to the GMC from Hurley-Franks & Associates, an urban planning firm located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Leah holds a Bachelor of Arts from Haverford College where she majored in Growth & Structure of Cities and a Master's Degree in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Board Approves New Members**

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed four new members.

### **William Brash**

**Wisconsin Court of Appeals**

Law Practice

*Proposers: Joan Kessler and Tom  
Gale*

### **Michelle Havas**

**Milwaukee County District**

**Attorney's Office**

Law Practice

*Proposer: Janet Protasiewicz*

### **Anne Summers**

**Brico Fund**

Charitable Foundation

*Proposer: Ginger Duiven*

### **Scott Wales**

**Law Offices of Scott A. Wales**

Law Practice

*Proposer: Janet Protasiewicz*

## Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust:

### *RCM's Partnership with the Village Health Project*

In the fall of 2016 the RCM Community Trust, at the recommendation of the World Community Service Committee, donated \$2,000 to the Village Health Project (VHP), a community development organization that connects projects of agriculture, clean water, nutrition, sanitation, and microfinance into an orderly approach to improve the livelihood of residents of Lweza, Uganda. The specific focus of the grant is to support Andrew Denu, a recent UW-Madison graduate, in his efforts to develop a drip irrigation system.

Here are some excerpts a recent blog post by Andrew:

So, why drip irrigation? Food security is a problem for so many families in Lweza. Many struggle to grow crops efficiently or earn a high enough income to feed their large (averaging 6-8 children) families. Dryness is one main issue throughout Uganda due to unpredictable rains. A drip irrigation system attempts to solve dryness by using drip lines (thin pipes) with little holes that line up directly with the root zone of crops, mainly vegetables, and allows water to flow across a garden bed simply with gravity. There are many forms of drip, but I tried to determine the most affordable and efficient type of irrigation for people in Lweza. Thus, I found out about bucket drip irrigation.



*Resident in Lweza collecting contaminated water. The bucket drip system gives food security to those in need by growing food with non-contaminated water.*

A few weeks ago, I had a drip expert show me how to install a bucket drip system at the community demonstration garden, behind the Guest House where I stay. This garden is used as a way to teach the community about new agriculture techniques and animal husbandry. I piloted drip in the demo garden with cabbage, tomatoes, and eggplant, three vegetables that were commonly planted throughout the community when I was doing interviews. I held a workshop at the garden about the benefits/set-up of drip irrigation to a community-based organization in Lweza and members all seemed really interested. I have started to pilot it in the community with this organization whose members will spread the word about drip throughout the village. In order to create sustainability and ownership for the project, each recipient of drip must contribute a portion of the total cost, as well as labor. If people invest something into a project, they will not want to see it fail and will take care of the drip systems, which require some upkeep.



*Andrew Denu working in Lweza with local residents.*

For more information about the Village Health Project, go to [www.villagehealthproject.org](http://www.villagehealthproject.org). Abby Stepaniak, the daughter of RCM member Jerry Stepaniak, was one of the founders of the Village Health Project. 🌱