

Seeking Nominations for 2016 Rotary Person of the Year

By Jeff Fleming, Rotary Person of the Year Committee Chair

Annually, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee honors an accomplished local individual with the Rotary Person of the Year Award. It is our club's highest honor. What sets this award apart is its unique focus on professional accomplishments, unlike other awards that recognize civic and philanthropic achievements.



2015 RPY John Daniels

A committee of your fellow Rotarians is responsible for determining the award recipient. It's a straightforward process in which the nominees' attributes are scrutinized and compared. The impressive list is narrowed, and one award winner is selected.

It is important to note, the most important step in the process is not in the hands of the committee. The secret to a successful Rotary Person of the Year selection is the nomination submissions from RCM members. Those nominations insure that top quality candidates are considered by the committee, and the brief text submitted by the nominator presents information committee members will include in their review. So, please consider nominating an individual you think would be a good candidate.

The purpose of this award highlights the Second Objective of Rotary:

- to foster high ethical standards in business and the professions
- to recognize the worthiness of all useful occupations; and
- to dignify each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

continued on page 2

USS Milwaukee to be Commissioned November 21st

By Jeff Brown

The RCM Military Service Support Committee would like to bring Rotarians' attention to the commissioning of the USS Milwaukee taking place on Saturday, November 21, 2015 at the Milwaukee County Veterans Park on the beautiful downtown Milwaukee waterfront. The ceremony is open to the public, however, admission tickets are required. Tickets are available on the USS Milwaukee Commissioning website at www.usmilwaukeeelcs5.org.



The USS Milwaukee at its christening in 2013

The USS Milwaukee (LCS 5) will arrive a week before its commissioning and will be moored a short distance from the home of the RCM at the Milwaukee War Memorial. This will be the first commissioning of a U.S. Navy warship in the Great Lakes since 2008 and will make the USS Milwaukee the only U.S. Navy warship ever commissioned in her namesake city, in the state she was built. Not only was the ship built in Wisconsin, the two diesel power plants that are a part of the ship's propulsion system are built by Fairbanks Morse Engine based in Beloit as well. That is something for all Wisconsinites to be very proud of.

The Military Service Support Committee members would like to encourage you to participate by coming out to see this historic event. The RCM Community Trust made a contribution \$5,000 for the commission ceremony of the USS Milwaukee.



Rotaract Seeking Mentors

By Janine Kolbeck

"Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction." - John C. Crosby

Rotaract Milwaukee continues to engage and deepen the relationship between Rotaract and the Rotary Club of Milwaukee as well as further the professional development goals embodied in our mission. Rotaract members are young professionals who are looking to broaden their careers and continue to grow in the Rotary family - and they are looking for Rotary mentors!

Volunteering time is a precious gift, but Rotaracters would greatly appreciate your wisdom, insight and perspective. They are facing some of the same hurdles and choices you have experienced and would greatly appreciate your wisdom, insight, and perspective.

A monthly commitment is all that is expected. Expectations will be outlined to the protégé and mentor upon joining the program. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Janine Kolbeck at Rotaractmilwaukee@gmail.com for more information. ☸



"Ms. Thelma was a wonderful mentor for me. As a woman who has held many different roles in business, it was helpful to hear her perspective on some of the challenges I was facing during a recent career change. She also really encouraged me to make time for fun stuff! It's so important to do things that develop you on a more personal

level, activities that define you outside of who you are at work. That balance is SO very important."

- Laura Kisse, President Rotaract MKE 2015-2016



"My experience with Laura Kisse was very inspiring. As a young future leader, she shared a passion for Milwaukee and her hopes of continued great things to happen. This community should be proud of Laura and others like her willing to take on the leadership baton of our future."

- Thelma A. Sias, Vice President - Local Affairs, We Energies

Seeking Nominations for 2016 Rotary Person of the Year *continued from page 1*

As such, past Rotary Person of the Year Award recipients include individuals who:

- through their profession have made the community a better place to live and work,
- and have shown outstanding leadership in the advancement of ideas, products or services.

The Rotary Person of the Year Committee requests that nominators follow these guidelines:

- Describe why you think the individual you're nominating meets our criteria and should receive the award.
- Nominations should be one page or less in length and must be submitted electronically as a Word document.

- Submit a one page attachment if necessary to highlight or note any special attributes beyond what you have written in your nomination.
- Send your nomination and attachment to: rpy@milwaukeeerotary.com.

Our 2016 recipient will be announced in the late spring. We will present the award at a June Rotary meeting.

The deadline for submitting nominations is January 15th, 2016, so anyone interested is encouraged to submit a nomination soon. ☸

PHOTO gallery



Rotarians enjoyed a few hours' work in the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum at a Done-in-a-Day event.



Rotarians raved about the Rishi Tea Tyrotarian tour! And our bearded members had the chance to wear some distinctive headgear during the tour.

Milwaukee Police Chief Ed Flynn spoke to Rotary in September.



Board Approves New Members

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

Patrick Ferry
Concordia University
Education – Private University
Proposer: Ran Hoth

Janine Kolbeck
Goodwill TalentBridge LLC
Employment Staffing Services
Proposers: Mike Boelter and Ran Hoth

Roy Peterson
Concordia University
Education – Private University
Ran Hoth

Dennis Kois
Milwaukee Public Museum
Arts & Culture
Proposer: Ed Heinecke

Bill Mitchell
Vrakas CPAs and Advisors
Accounting
Proposer: Jean Casey

Kevin Ringgold
WeycoGroup, Inc.
Manufacturing - Men's Footwear
Darren Miller

The Board also welcomed back returning member George Hinton.

SPEAKER schedule

NOVEMBER 3rd - In a joint program with the Milwaukee Press Club, we'll explore the legacy of Dickey Chapelle, a combat photographer from Shorewood who was killed in Vietnam 50 years ago. Known for her fearlessness, Chapelle covered the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II, and traveled to Algeria, Panama, Lebanon, Hungary, Cuba and Vietnam on assignment for National Geographic, Cosmopolitan, National Observer and other publications. She was killed at the age of 47, and is believed to be the first female American correspondent to die on assignment. Program participants will include **Maryann Lazarski**, producer and director of a new documentary about Chapelle; writer **John Garofolo**, author of a new book/photo retrospective on Chapelle; and *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reporter **Meg Jones**, who has made has made eight trips to U.S. war zones to report on Wisconsin troops in service.

NOVEMBER 10th - The City, the County, and civic leaders are united in support of creating a world class public plaza on the land immediately west of Discovery World Museum. The Lakefront Gateway Plaza will add a beautiful, defining space to the downtown portion of Milwaukee's lakefront. It will incorporate energy, connections, and become a site that draws people and activity year-round – maximizing the significance of one of the greatest locations in our City. Following a year-long national

competition, the City recently announced a group led by the engineering and consulting firm GRAEF will advance the design of the plaza. Team leader **Pat Kressin** will join us to share the vision and outline the work ahead to complete the Lakefront Gateway Plaza.

NOVEMBER 17th - As president and CEO of the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, **Julie Tolan** has guided the Milwaukee Y through its recent bankruptcy and is working to reposition the organization for long-term success. Hear her perspective as she reflects on leading through this difficult chapter and the current challenges of achieving the Milwaukee Y's bold new vision to build a healthier, stronger and safer Milwaukee where families of all incomes and backgrounds thrive.

NOVEMBER 24th - Milwaukee historian and writer **John Gurda** will present on his book *Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods*, recently published by Historic Milwaukee. Based on a popular series of posters published by the City of Milwaukee in the 1980s, the book features both historical chronicles and contemporary portraits of 37 neighborhoods that emerged before World War II, an ensemble that defines the historic heart of the city. The book also features 11 new neighborhood posters by artist Jan Kotowicz, who created the original series.

WELCOME new members



Jessica Dean

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Jessica Dean is President of the Bradley Impact Fund and Vice President for External Relations at the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. Prior to this, she was with the Heritage Foundation, a Washington, DC-based think tank for 11 years. She has also worked for the European Foundation for Democracy, The American Spectator, and the Girl Scouts. She was an active board member and volunteer for TeamCFA, a charter school network based in Arizona. Jessica is originally from Lake Forest, IL and graduated from Vanderbilt University with degrees in political science and cognitive studies. She and her husband, Major William Dean and their son, Griff, live in Middleton.



Rachel Larrivee

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Rachel Allen Larrivee is the owner and president of Props Unlimited Events, a theme décor company based in Milwaukee. Businesses and nonprofits turn to Props Unlimited's library of large-scale props and murals to transform their special events, conferences and fundraisers into unforgettable experiences. Prior to purchasing Props Unlimited from her grandparents, Rachel worked in the office of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle for nearly seven years and later served in a distinguished events role at the American Cancer Society in Madison and Milwaukee. She remains active in the community and sits on the steering committee of the Wisconsin Innovation Awards. Rachel and her husband Scott live in Lake Mills.



Parthiban Manoharan

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Parthi is a Director of Business Development for Birlasoft Inc, an IT services and consulting company, which is part a worldwide 1.6 billion dollar Indian Conglomerate. Parthi has been based in Milwaukee for the past four years and is doing work with customers like GE Healthcare, Generac Power System and TTX Company. Prior to Milwaukee, he worked in Albany New York and India. It was his wish from the childhood to help the communities around him and believes RCM is a perfect place to launch his service journey. Parthi is an avid reader and a big fan of NFL. He enjoys spending his spare time with his two sons, Srinath (4) and Srijith (1), and his wife Saranya.



Josh Sova

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Josh Sova serves as the Executive Director for USO Wisconsin Inc. supporting 16,000 service members and their families throughout the state of Wisconsin. Josh supervises operations and staff while creating strategies for future expansion. USO Wisconsin supports all five branches of military through state of the art programs and centers. Prior to working with USO Wisconsin, Josh worked at Three Harbors Council, Boy Scouts of America, The United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and GMR Marketing. Josh received a Bachelor's degree from UW-Lacrosse and attended Pius XI High School. He currently lives in Muskego with his wife and three children. He enjoys camping, traveling and craft beers.

Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust: Veterans Sailing Program at Milwaukee Yacht Club

Through a proposal of the Military Service Support Committee, the RCM Community Trust sponsored a Veterans Sailing Program in conjunction with the Milwaukee Yacht Club. The RCM Community Trust contributed \$1,500 to underwrite sailing lessons for six veterans this past summer. The Milwaukee Yacht Club (MYC) further allocated \$ 1,000 toward the project.

The program was arranged by Courtney Zeller of the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. Courtney is a recreation therapist with the HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program (known as HUD-VASH), a joint effort between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA. The HUD-VASH program helps veterans living with a disability, mental illness, addiction, chronic homelessness or other issues obtain and maintain housing. As a recreation therapist, Courtney helps veterans in this program integrate into the community through recreational activities and opportunities.



A veteran steers a sailboat during a lesson. *Photo courtesy of Milwaukee VA Medical Center.*

The sailing program was held one hour a week for six weeks at the Milwaukee Yacht Club. The classes included a combination of water, dockside, and classroom education to teach veterans basic sailing skills, including: identifying and knowledge of the

different parts of the sailboat; securing the sailboat through different types of knots; weather patterns involved in sailing; practice with maneuvering; and steering the sailboat.

The Veterans that participated in this program were informed about volunteer opportunities with the Milwaukee Yacht Club to continue furthering their sailing skills, and several were enthusiastic about learning more. Reggie Brown, a U.S. Army veteran, said “After the first session I was hooked. After being out on the water sailing, I feel so relaxed. I just forget about everything and come back feeling refreshed and renewed.”



Photo courtesy of Milwaukee VA Medical Center.

Military Service Support Committee Chair George Solveson visited the last sailing lesson of the season and reported that he “was greeted with some very happy vets!” After the success of the first Veterans Sailing Program in summer 2015, the Military Service Support Committee, the Milwaukee Yacht Club and Courtney all hope to bring back the program in 2016. 🌀