



CONNECTING

MCKEY CHRISTMAS CLUBS GETS RCM SUPPORT BY PAST-PRESIDENT JOE CARUSO

It has been around for almost as long as the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. It has been chaired by at least six RCM presidents and several other RCM members, and has a dozen other club members among its ranks. It is the Douglas F. McKey Christmas Club which has been serving families in need at the holidays since 1917. The club is named for Douglas F. McKey, grandfather of RCM member Jean McKey, who was also one of the first women to be admitted to our club.

Typically, McKey serves 240 households, two-thirds of which are families with over 400 children ranging from infants to teenagers. The rest are senior households. All are recommended to McKey by six local social service agencies familiar with their needs. Each household gets a well-stocked box of food staples as well as fresh fruit and vegetables. Seniors get blankets and chocolates, while children get age appropriate clothing and toys. McKey members team up to deliver the food and gifts to each household right before Christmas making it a more personal experience for all involved.



Past-President Dan Vliet (middle) volunteering for McKey.

Most of the food comes from Feeding America of Southeast Wisconsin. Up until recently, McKey had partnered with the Boston Store for clothes and toys, but since the company went out of business, it has established a similar partnership with Milwaukee based Kohl's Department Stores.

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2019 ROTARY PERSON OF THE YEAR

BY JEFF FLEMING, CHAIR OF RPY COMMITTEE

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee has no higher honor than the Rotary Person of the Year Award. Annually, our club honors an accomplished local individual who has distinguished herself or himself with professional accomplishments.

Unlike other awards that recognize civic and philanthropic achievements, the Rotary Person of the Year honors leaders who build, employ, and have an economic impact in our region. Members of our club are eligible for the award, but, most often, the winner comes from outside the club.

Last year we celebrated Michael Barber, a leading executive with GE Healthcare.



Jeff Fleming, Michael Barber, Past-President JoAnne Anton, and Michael's proposer, Past-President Dr. John Ridley.

It is important to note, the most important step in the process of selecting the Rotary Person of the Year is in your hands. The secret to a successful Rotary Person of the Year selection is the nomination submissions from RCM members. Michael Barber was nominated by Rotarian John Ridley. Past winner Sr. Edna Lonergan was nominated by Rotarian Doug MacNeil. And, Rotarian Nancy Sennett nominated past winner Nan Gardetto.

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2019 ROTARY PERSON OF THE YEAR *continued from page one*

We now ask **YOU**, who should be our 2019 Rotary Person of the Year?

A committee of your fellow Rotarians reviews the nominations. It's a straight forward process in which the nominees' attributes are scrutinized and compared. The impressive list is narrowed, and one award winner is selected.

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.

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@milwaukee Rotary.com.
- Our 2019 recipient will be announced in the late spring.
- We will present the award at a June Rotary meeting.

Again, your nominations insure that top quality candidates are considered by the committee. So, please consider nominating an individual you think would be a good candidate. **The deadline for submitting nominations will be Monday, January 14th.** 🌐

MCKEY CHRISTMAS CLUBS GETS RCM SUPPORT *continued from page one*

According to Past RCM President Dan Vliet, who is this year's McKey chair, McKey relies on the dues from its members to buy the food and gifts, as well as their participation in shopping, wrapping, food boxing and distributing. However in this transitional period, McKey needed additional financial resources to make up for goods and services provided by Boston Store like wrapping paper, gift boxes and other supplies.

Because of its long history of member leadership and involvement, RCM has pledged to support McKey with a \$2,500 donation for each of the next three years. That support gives McKey time to recruit more members and line up additional financial support to carry its mission forward.

Just as RCM makes a difference locally, so does the McKey Christmas Club. But as mentioned above, McKey needs more members. Past President Dan Vliet encourages all RCM members to look into McKey noting that just a few hours of volunteer time can make a significant difference. Often couples and even entire families volunteer. The four main activities of McKey are gift shopping, gift wrapping, food boxing and distribution all of which occur in December right before Christmas. Event, dues and donation details are available at www.mckeychristmasclub.org. 🌐

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - NEW!

You may have noticed a new feature in our weekly email called Member...

SPOTLIGHT

It offers you a chance to get know one of our members. You will learn about his or her background, why they joined Rotary and a few fun facts. So far we have featured Mary and Eric Isbister, Christy Brown, John Vermuth, Kris Hinrichs, and Patrick Fennelly.

We owe hearty thanks to RCM Board Member (Sergeant at Arms) Barbara Velez who has volunteered to write a profile about a member each week. How does she decide whom to write about each week? She puts the names of all of our members in a hat and lets chance be her guide.

Read our Member Spotlights in our CONNECTING email sent out every Friday, check out our website or Facebook page for the latest feature. 

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 6th- Austin Ramirez

Austin Ramirez is the second-generation President and CEO of Husco International, a global engineering and manufacturing company. During his tenure as CEO, the company has grown more than 300% and been recognized as Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year. Austin recently said that the proposed tariff increases would immediately put Husco and other American manufacturers at a disadvantage to competitors abroad. How have the tariffs impacted Husco's business? How is Husco dealing with the increasing uncertainty of international trade markets? Join us to hear Austin Ramirez share more details.

NOVEMBER 13th - John Gurda

The success and survival of Milwaukee lies in the rivers that meander through its streets and the great lake at its shore. The area's earliest inhabitants recognized the value of an abundant, clean water supply for food and transportation. Settlers, shipbuilders, and city leaders used the same waters to travel greater distances, power million-dollar industries, and even have a bit of fun. Milwaukee historian and writer John Gurda will present on his book *Milwaukee: A City Built on Water*. This book expands on his popular Milwaukee Public Television

documentary, relating the mucky history of the waters that gave Milwaukee life—and occasionally threatened the city through erosion, invasive species, and water-borne diseases.

NOVEMBER 20th - More information coming soon!

NOVEMBER 27th - Woody Williams

Hershel "Woody" Williams was born on a dairy farm in 1923 in Quiet Dell, West Virginia. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served in the Battle of Iwo Jima with the 21st Marines, 3d Marine Division. During the battle, Mr. Williams displayed "valiant devotion to duty" and service above self as he "enabled his company to reach its objective". Mr. Williams' actions, commitment to his fellow service members, and heroism were recognized on October 5, 1945, when he received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Truman at the White House. Mr. Williams is the sole surviving Marine from WWII, to wear the Medal of Honor.

SAVE THE DATE: ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT BARRY RASSIN AT RCM!



We are honored to host Rotary International (RI) President Barry Rassin of the Rotary Club of East New Providence, Bahamas at our Rotary luncheon on Tuesday, December 4th.

In his role as RI President, Barry oversees the 35,000 Rotary Clubs in over 200 countries around the world. His mission is to call on leaders to work for a sustainable future and to inspire Rotarians and the community at large.

Barry has a MBA in health and hospital administration from the University of Florida and was the first fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives in

the Bahamas. He recently retired after 37 years as president of Doctors Hospital Health System, where he continues to serve as a Director. He is a lifetime member of the American Hospital Association and has served on several boards, including the Quality Council of the Bahamas, Health Education and Employer's Confederation. In July 2018, The Bahamas Government recognized Barry as an Officer of The Order of Distinction.

This is a very special opportunity for our Club as our last visit from a RI President was in 2010 by Ray Klingensmith for the groundbreaking of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. So, we hope you can join us on December 4th as we welcome RI President Barry Rassin to Milwaukee! 🌟

SCHOLAR CORNER - ALEEYA CONWAY



Aleea Conway is a sophomore at Marquette University in the Physical Therapy doctorate program. She is also minoring in Culture, Health & Illness as well as Peace Studies. Aleea is mentored by Rotarians Pam Evason and Leslie Hauser. She is also our William Adams Scholar.

Between her busy class schedule and extracurricular involvement, Aleea is very active on campus.

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One of her favorite classes this semester is Gospel Choir, which allows her to take a break from her rigorous academic studies. She is a member of Marquette's Women and Youth Supporting Each Other (WYSE) group that allows her to mentor female students at Barack Obama School of Career and Technical Education School. She is also a Resident Advisor in Marquette's new university dorms. To say Aleea is busy is quite the understatement!

Aleea is grateful for the support from the Rotary Club of Milwaukee Scholarship Program. "Without the support and scholarships provided by Rotary, it would be difficult for me to make it through college, both financially and emotionally."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



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Frank is the Vice President of Engagement of Bader Philanthropies. His responsibilities include leading the Foundation's exploration of a neighborhood, place-based strategy to complement the Foundation's existing grantmaking, with an emphasis on the Harambee neighborhood. Frank brings more than 30 years of experience in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Previously he was Program Manager with Acts Housing, the Senior Assistant to Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and participated in a number of startups. He holds a degree in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.



GREGG HERMAN

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Gregg Herman who practices family law with Loeb & Herman is Board Certified in Family Law Trial Advocacy. He is a past chair of the American Bar Association Family Law Section and a past President of the Milwaukee Bar Association. Gregg was a member of North Shore Rotary for 15 years and served twice as president. He also volunteers for the Milwaukee Justice Center and serves as pro bono attorney on family law issues for the Wisconsin Chapter of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. In his personal life, Gregg's passions are his family (especially his 3+ grandchildren), the Wisconsin Badgers and his Labrador retriever, not necessarily in that order!



MARGARET KREI

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Margaret Krei, an attorney at Husch Blackwell, is a graduate of George Washington University and Marquette University Law School. She is the Director of Community for the Junior League of Milwaukee and is a member of Impact100 Greater Milwaukee. Margaret performs pro bono work for the Eviction Defense Project and the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Guardianship Clinic. Her hobbies include playing tennis, reading, and traveling. She and her husband Andrew live on the East Side with their beloved dog, Opie.



ADAM SCHLICHT

Port Milwaukee
Director
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Adam Schlicht assumed the role of Director at the Port Milwaukee in August 2018 where he oversees the Port's multimodal operations, which generate over \$100 million in local economic activity annually. A longtime Federal employee, Adam brings significant experience in international and Great Lakes transportation to Milwaukee. At the U.S. Department of Transportation, Adam led the St. Lawrence Seaway's Great Lakes Regional Initiative in Cleveland. Raised in Oak Creek, Adam has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Master's Degree from American University. Adam's partner, Aaron Tindall, is a pediatric intensive care nurse.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE RCM COMMUNITY TRUST

URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER'S NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT

For more than ten years, the RCM Community Trust has paid for students at our two partner schools, Brown Street Academy and Oliver Wendell Holmes, to participate in the Urban Ecology Center's Neighborhood Environmental Education Project (NEEP).

The philosophy of NEEP is based on research which shows that constant contact with nature early in life, and exposure to adult mentors who demonstrate positive environmental behavior, leads to environmental awareness in children.

In the city people often live in apartment buildings and school grounds are often covered in cement. The Urban Ecology Center offers unique urban sanctuaries and "outdoor laboratories" for neighborhood school children. The Center's staff and volunteers serve as adult mentors to guide students, year after year, as they progress through school.

Rather than just another field trip, students have access to an outdoor classroom where science concepts taught in class are reinforced with hands-on outdoor activities during multiple visits.



A NEEP teaching moment at the Urban Ecology Center pond at Riverside Park.

NEEP science-based programs range from basic wildlife and ecology studies, to the physics of sound and light, to simple machines, to energy, to recycling. At a time when physical education programs are being cut, the Center also offers valuable kinesthetic learning opportunities including rock climbing, canoeing, hiking, snow shoeing and ice skating.



When asked about the impact of NEEP at Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School, a guidance counselor said:

"Working with the Urban Ecology Center has been truly one of the most inspirational experiences that our students have experienced. Our students who are now in high school can't wait to get back to the Center to enjoy it and to volunteer."

With the support of the RCM Community Trust, students at Brown Street Academy and Oliver Wendell Holmes have the opportunity to develop strong, lifelong connections to nature through NEEP – now enhanced by the diverse habitats of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. 🌿