

# Mount Clemens Rotary Club



"the spokesperson" for June 7, 2007

*Minutes by Jessica Cheshire*

President elect **Bob Morris** called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. on the first Rotary meeting in June! **Bill Lee** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem while Jennifer Gale accompanied on the piano. **Bob Selwa** led the prayer and asked us to all give thanks for the blessing we have in life each day. Following the prayer was a hearty lunch starting with an antipasto salad, roast beef, mashed potatoes, steamed carrots and fruit cocktail for dessert. Our club was full of only Rotarians with no guests recognized. **Bob Selwa** was our song leader and he brought two sidekicks **Al Zuccaro** and **Donald Carnaghi** up front with him to lead us. To celebrate the beautiful sunny weather we sang "Oh! What a Beautiful Mornin'" and ended with one verse of the famous "R-O-T-A-R-Y" song!

**Lynn Davidson** pushed the "pedals" today. With no members present to receive their flowers, Lynn was on the move to sell them all. First flower went to **Jessica Cheshire** from **Darlene LaBelle**



congratulating Jessica on graduating from the Leadership Macomb program. **Bob Selwa** bought a flower for his sweetheart, wife Jane. **Valerie Miller** thanked Darlene LaBelle for hosting a passport fair at the Macomb County Library this morning. **Glenn Burton** bought one for his mother, but sent the flower through a carrier, his dad Ralph. **Dick Pierson** and **Gerry Hanson** bought flowers for each other for a reason to be later revealed in announcements. New member, **Russ Russell** bought a flower for our speaker, fellow Rotarian **John Walendowski**. Finally **Lynn Davidson** scooped up the last flower for Judge **Don Miller** as an appreciation for understanding when Lynn found the answer to his question, but never gave the answer to him.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bob Selwa** informed us that Tony Bennett will be in town one night only on Friday, June 15 at the Detroit Opera House.

**Keith Beasley** reminded everyone of the Rotary Social tonight at Orleans from 5 – 6:30 p.m.

**President-Elect Bob Morris** is looking for three committee chairs for Youth Exchange, Recognition and Group Study Program, please see Bob if you are interested.

**Dick Pierson** and **Gerry Hanson** announced the arrival of a new granddaughter on June 5. Dick and Gerry volunteered each other to pay \$100 for their new addition to the family.

**Bob Cannon** laid to rest rumors circling in Clinton Township. First of all the carousel will be torn down for new development. No final commitment has been made but reliable sources say that IKEA has been buying the surrounding property across the street from the Harley-Davidson on Gratiot to have a new store opening in 2010. After a decision made by a generous circuit court judge a new Wal-Mart will be built on the corner of Hall Road and Romeo Plank. Supporters need to come forward to encourage the expansion of the Gratiot Cruise to run through Mount Clemens.

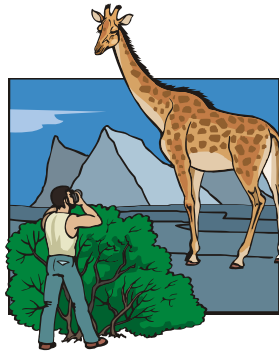
## RECOGNITION

**Nancy Dedenbach** spoke through the podium to administer the fines today. She started first with **Bob Selwa** on his song selection of singing with words about "elephant's eye" in lieu of the Africa atmosphere in the room and in addition for letting **Mary Ann Hosey** know she didn't need to get out of his chair, she could just sit on his lap which cost him \$4.99. Everyone's wallets were open for a \$1 fine if they were not wearing their Rotary pins. **Bill** and **Jeff Furest** were fined \$4.99 for killing Bambi and showing pictures of it and having luxurious accommodations including a pool in Africa! **Julie Huttenlocher** was down \$4.99 for forgetting her duties and heading up north leaving us with a scrappy newsletter in May. Up next, **Bob Lee** who knows the rules, had his phone ring and proceeded to talk on the phone during the meeting, costing him \$4.99. **Judge Don Miller** looking fresh and tan came back to Rotary from a trip to Florida and better yet he flew himself there, we are glad to see his safe return but charged him \$4.99 for the trip.

## Speaker

**K**eith Beasley filling in for **Patty McKay** introduced a familiar face as our speaker. **John Walendowski** is an active Rotarian in our club and was in the right place at the right time learning about the water project in Africa and soon after got heavily involved in the program. John has made several trips to Africa and his most recent trip was in March to help move the water project forward. While John was there, he received the nickname “YaYa” by the mayor of the village of Mali where he stayed. John recently accepted a \$12,500 grant from the Rotary Foundation to continue the work in Africa and he spoke today on the progress and plans for the future.

John began the presentation with a slide show of pictures from his trip in March. He was honored to stay with the mayor of the village but was informed that there was no water available at their home. The mayor is responsible for 20,000 residents of Mali adjacent to Bamako where both villages need to buy water from the city, Mouribabougou. The Nile river is accessible for water, but the water is so polluted it cannot be drunk or used due to the diseases the water carries. At this time of year, there is limited electricity due to the low levels of the river, so therefore the plant cannot generate energy. Every 16 seconds, a child living in these conditions dies due to poor water.



There was so much food offered to him and everyone took as much food as they could. John told us that he asked them, “How can they eat so much and stay so thin?” They replied, “Because we do not eat when you are not here.” John was referred to as “very fat” which meant very wealthy because John was able to eat so good at home. John attended the Rotary meeting and worked with our club and their club to sign an agreement for a 20-year sustainable project to eventually enable us to develop a refining plant of the Nile River water to be piped into a water tower for the villages to use. A commitment from both clubs was given to continue working on this project, and allow the project to request funds through Rotary International. A formal letter written by the minister of parliament was giving to John to allow him to operate with their blessing. This was a rare letter to receive and it was due to the fact that John was coming from a Rotary club. There is high respect for Rotarians in other countries.

The goal of the program is to supply clean water to get these children healthy for the future. The Nile river is undrinkable due to the fact that the water runs through mounds of garbage that sits close to the public, and then goes into the river. These poor conditions cause a high number of rats and mosquitoes which bring more diseases to the village. John stayed on the rooftop of the mayor’s house with a net covering his bed due to the mosquitoes and high sand-blowing during the night. As a guest he received a five-gallon bucket of water for bathing that was brought to him by women who walked there and back from the city, usually carrying water, a baby and wood each trip they make. The average weight of a person is 80 pounds, John was able to bring clothes that his girls no longer fit in to be worn by adult women in the village. When John was there, they provided three meals a day.

The goals of the water project are to build filters with plastic versus cement, drill 100 wells with the new eight-foot well drill that was bought through the grant received by the Rotary Foundation and begin educating the residents of the villages on clean hygiene and the ways to keep the water clean. Rotarians can help by joining the international committee that John chairs. The committee needs help writing grants, learning about water issues, and recruiting new members to the project. The goal of the project is to provide clean and healthy water for 50,000 residents.

**Bob Morris** thanked John for a wonderful presentation and it is a true honor to have John as a member of our club. Great work John!

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**R**ay Glime was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle, taking home \$62.



### BIRTHDAYS

6/1 MARGO (BOB) BAKER

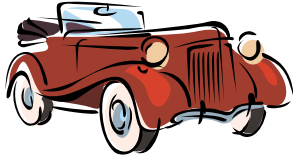
6/4 MIKE ROBINSON

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

6/7 DEAN & LISA BELISLE (10)

6/8 GERRY & NANCY INNES (21)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM: SARAH LEE-ELLENA PROGRAM CHAIR



- 6/14 JOE PERUZZI, CINDY SUE DONAHUE AND DON GREEN PRESENT THE NEW DOCUMENTARY  
"EARLY MACOMB COUNTY AUTOMOBILE DEALERS," RECENTLY PREMIERED AND GIVEN HIGH  
PRAISES BY LOCAL HISTORIANS
- 6/21 OFFICER SUSAN PAYNE, ROSEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT "THE RAPID SEARCH NETWORK"
- 6/28 RESIDENT RON REED'S OUTGOING SPEECH. LAST MEETING AT RIVER HOUSE

7/5 NO MEETING

7/12 VICE ADMIRAL TERRANCE ETNYRE, COMMANDER OF THE US NAVY'S SURFACE FLEET - DETROIT NAVY WEEK. FIRST  
MEETING AT ZION CHURCH

7/19 PRESIDENT BOB MORRIS' INCOMING SPEECH

7/26 BOAT OUTING -- MEETING FOR LUNCH ONLY

OTHER:

6/8 PRESIDENT'S BALL 6-10 P.M. ANTON ART CENTER FOR OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT ROBERT MORRIS

6/17-20 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - SALT LAKE CITY

Mount Clemens Rotary  
Club 2992 of  
Rotary District 6380  
of Rotary International  
Meets 12:15 p.m. Thursday at  
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