



**THE
ROTARY
RAZZ**

Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest, Illinois
Club 3190 District 6450

Meetings: Noon
at Cucina Paradiso,
814 North Blvd.,
Oak Park.

Club 3190
District 6450

Eric Van Ness
517-414-8397
evanness@wradvisors.com

RAZZ Editors:
Rick Hibbert
Lesley Gottlinger

<http://www.oprfrotary.org>

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Today in OPRF Rotary

October 27, 2021

This week's program will feature four new members — Shena Keith, Maggie McGarry, Chris Griffith and Greg Johnson.



Keith



McGarry



Griffith



Johnson

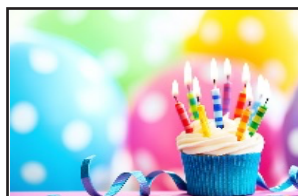


Fun, Food & Fellowship – Cucina Paradiso

BRING A GUEST TO LUNCH

Mark your calendars NOW!

Buffet lunches will begin Oct. 27



Happy Birthday

October

3 — Tom Ewert
17 — Mike Sletten
20 — Pamela Mahn
25 — Selma Belajec
26 — Tony Martinez
30 — Martha Murphy



October

Mike Sletten — 14 years
Jim Lencioni — 8 years
Robert Stelletello — 14 years
Jack Kennelly — 7 years
Jimmy DeMay — 6 years
Tony Martinez — 3 years
Melissa Keshen — 2 years
Alexis Marcotte — 2 years

November

5 — Lesley Gottlinger
11 — Scott McAdam
19 — Sue Quinn
27 — Greg Sawyer
27 — Shalena Thomas

November

Charles Wells — 29 years
Marc Stopeck — 18 years
Matt Grote — 17 years

CALENDAR

October

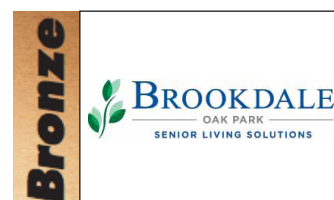
27 — Lunch Meeting - Cucina Paradiso. **Program:** Our newest members will introduce themselves.

November

3 — Lunch meeting - Cucina Paradiso. **Program:** Foundation presentation. Patty Eggerding will explain the work, donations, club impact etc. of the Rotary Foundation.

13 — Fullerton Woods monthly cleanup, 9:30-11:30 a.m. This is the 8th and final monthly cleanup for the season.

Welcome
Back
Lesley





Announcements

- **Club President Eric Van Ness** said that we are setting up a taskforce for Ade Onayemi's installation, which will be in mid- to late June of 2022 for incoming District Governor. If you would like to be involved in that, please let Eric know. One of the aspects will be finding a venue for the installation. We're expecting several hundred guests to be there.
- If you are working on 100 percent attendance and you miss a meeting, let **Mike Sletten** know when you make up the meeting. There are many ways to make up a missed meeting such as attending a committee meeting, going to another club's meeting, E-Club meetings, participating in service projects, going to club events and attending district meetings. You have until the end of the year to make up missed meetings.
- Eric announced that we are going back to buffet lunches beginning Oct. 27. He said that the registration process wasn't working. For the Oct. 20 meeting, we had 24 people signed up, however, there were 30-something at the meeting. He said that's a problem. They can't serve us all. He said that anyone who has specific COVID-19 concerns about a buffet, the service staff is willing to accommodate that and help individually. We no longer have to register for lunch.
- **Lesley Gottlinger** reminded the club about the Fullerton Woods cleanup scheduled for Oct. 23. She said that one more month after that we will then be eligible to have our Interact Club's name put up there so we can say that we are the proud "parent" of Fullerton Woods Forest Preserve. ... As Sue Quinn and Bill Planek have said it is getting cleaner and cleaner from what it was seven months ago.
- Other Interact news, the cookbooks are still for sale.
- We have nine members from our club signed up for the Polio Plus Society. The District has 88 members as of Monday night, Oct. 18.
- **Dr. Nabil Saleh** said it was good to see Lesley at the meeting. "Thank you for what you do for this club and for this organization." Eric Van Ness added, "You were greatly missed. Thank you so much for coming back. We depend on Lesley for so many things."
- **Bob Giles** announced that Selma Belajec's birthday is Monday (Oct. 25). Eric said, "Happy birthday, Selma. I will not sing to you." **Bill Planek** quickly added, "That's his gift to you."
- Guests are **Riley**, who is here with Selma and **Michelle Dybal** who was here with PING! Also **Ginger Yarrow**, who is president of PING!



Our newest members include (from left) John Kearns, Laura Curley, Suzanne Jackson, Maggie McGarry and Gregory Johnson.



Attending the Oct. 23 cleanup day at Fullerton Woods Forest Preserve were (from left) Werner Huget, Kathy Onayemi, Ebube Nwafor (AFS exchange student), Beth Dowell (AFS host mom), Justin Onayemi and Julian Onayemi.

Another successful cleanup day at Fullerton Woods

For the seventh consecutive month, the Interact Club of Greater OP-RF-FP held a service project cleanup at Fullerton Woods Forest Preserve.

A huge thanks to the 10 OPRF Rotarians/Interactors, family and friends who participated: Beth Dowell, Werner Huget, Scott and Veronika McAdam, AFS exchange student Ebube Nwafor, Ade and Kathy Onayemi, Sue Quinn, and Don and Lesley Gottlinger.

Each month, the forest preserve seems to look better and better as a result of our efforts, although folks still seem to contribute enough "trash" to ensure our work may never be done!

The next and final cleanup of the season is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13 from 9:30-11:15 a.m. The location is W. Fullerton Avenue, west of North First Avenue, River Grove. Anyone interested and able to participate, please register by clicking on the "Fullerton Woods Monthly CleanUp" link under Upcoming Events on our club's website — oprrotary.org

With this eighth event, the Interact Club becomes eligible to officially adopt this forest preserve, and have a sign placed to make note of that.

Proud OPRF Rotary Grandparents

It's official. ... Hudson Scott McAdam was born Tuesday, Oct. 19 to Scott and Bee McAdam, once again making Scott and Veronika McAdam grandparents! Talk about proud grandparents!

The FaceBook caption with the accompanying photos read as

follows: "Happy family, healthy mom and baby, and a very proud big sister!" Big sister Harper is indeed one proud little girl!! Congratulations to all!!



Saturday, Oct. 16, was the date; a wedding to make another set of Rotary grandparents proud was the event! Lesley and Don Gotslinger's granddaughter Brianna Berillo and fiancé David Chon were married at Ethereal Confections in Woodstock, Ill.

With the wonderful smells of chocolate wafting from the candy shop below, the bride's entire family of siblings, nieces and nephews were part of the ceremony. Oldest brother Zach officiated, while

brothers Kyle and Ethan carried their sons Aiden (9 months) and Luciano (8 months) respectively down the aisle as the boys happily chewed on the ring boxes they were "charged" with carrying as ring bearers. The bride's brother Nate followed flower girls—nieces Adelynn and Aria—as they dropped rose petals. Nate wore a fanny-pack with extra flower petals to fill in as the girls placed individual petals! Finally, Tasha Berillo was her sister's Maid of Honor.



Oct. 20 Program: PING!

The Oct. 20 guest speaker was Ginger Yarrow, president of PING! (Providing Instruments for the Next Generation). Yarrow has lived in Oak Park for 30 years with her husband, Phil. She has a B.A. in English Education from University of Illinois Champaign and an M.A. in English from Loyola. She taught English at York High School in Elmhurst for seven years and later worked as an editor for a textbook company. In recent years, she has been co-director of uniforms for the Marching Huskies and a volunteer with Autism Speaks.

Yarrow studied piano for 12 years as a youngster and continues to play for pleasure. She has two boys, 21 and 19, both have played instruments in the D97 and D200 bands and orchestras. Music, therefore, is alive and well in the Yarrow household! Music was the lifeline to their older son when his autism made it difficult for them to reach him and is now really his life as he is pursuing an associate's degree in music at Triton!

Having attended schools herself in which the music programs paled in comparison to what we have in Districts 90, 97, and 200, Yarrow has been amazed at what young kids can accomplish with the right teaching, instruments, and programming. She is proud to be a part of an organization that provides that opportunity to all of our students, not only with PING!'s instruments but also its parent reach-out, fieldtrips, and mentoring program.

Besides music, Yarrow's interests include reading, history, current affairs, cooking (and eating!), baseball, and travel.

PING! brings equitable access to the instrumental music programs in Oak Park and River Forest school districts 90, 97, and 200 by loaning instruments and providing music enrichment opportunities to students in need, opening the door to music education and all its related benefits to those students who would otherwise be unable to participate.

Yarrow thanked our club for our support we have given PING! over the years. The money received in 2021 was used to purchase items, including practice mutes, music stands, metronome/tuners and upgrades for bows and mouthpieces.

She said that PING! is here in 2021 be-



PING! President Ginger Yarrow

cause of a couple of parents that were in school in the late '90s they were in one of the elementary school concerts.

"So these parents were sitting and they look around the auditorium in Irving School and realized that the kids on the stage really don't reflect the diversity of their school or their community," she said. "It really put a bee in their bonnet. The first year of PING! was formed, giving 14 kids at Irving School instruments they collected from friends.

"Their point was, we have this wonderfully diverse community, but not everyone has access to these amazing music programs we have in our schools."

This year 2021-22, 132 kids are enrolled in PING!

She said that their mission is a two-tiered program. The first tier is getting the musical instruments in the kids' hands. The second tier is providing enrichment (music lessons, camps, getting mentoring, having a good instrument, going to concerts).

PING! has more than 250 instruments in its inventory. They do buy some instruments occasionally because some instruments aren't donated.

She said that the violin is the most popular instrument, however, there were a lot of requests for percussion instruments this year.

The other part of what PING! does is the enrichment. They break that down to beginner, middle school and high school.

PING! holds some workshops for the beginner kids and provides scholarships for

summer camps. They make sure they are accessible to our kids.

Last year, during the pandemic, PING! started two new programs, bi-weekly private lessons virtually and a practice program PING! Pals.

In PING! Pals, high school and college-age kids practice with the kids once or twice a week. She said you need more touchpoints to keep people in the program. She said that research shows that kids who play in musical ensembles do better in school. They have a positive peer group and positive role models. All of that is very important, but you can't get all those benefits if you don't stay with the program.

The program for fourth- and fifth-graders is to encourage them so they move on to sixth grade.

Middle school enrichment includes a mentoring program with OPRFHS students; "sleep-away" summer camp scholarships; and District 90 lessons, District 97 music camp and local music scholarships. She said the kids come back with so much more confidence.

A mentor program pairs PING! middle school students with OPRFHS music students for one-on-one bi-weekly lessons.

High school enrichment includes: marching band camp and fees support; weekly private lesson scholarships; extraordinary experience scholarships, such as one for a trip to Europe sponsored by the Performing Arts Department every other year; college application support; and graduating senior financial support.

She said the other thing PING! does is connecting families. They provide a lot of information about concerts. They try to hook families up with discounted or free tickets. They send out texts and emails all the time with flyers about concerts.

They have a lot of partnerships with local music organizations. They host a number of meetings for parents to get together for networking.

The goals of PING! are: to never turn a student in need away; help PING! Students reach their full potential; be a healthy and sustainable organization; use resources efficiently and collaborate with others.

People can help by: spreading the word; donating instruments; contribute financially; and volunteering.



President Eric Van Ness with guests Michelle Dybal (center), fundraising chair for PING! and Ginger Yarrow, PING! president.



Laura Curley (left) and Maggie McGarry at the registration desk.

