

Rotary Club of Decatur




-October 22, 2015 | Be Involved, Be Engaged, Celebrate Rotary-

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This Week at Rotary

Evans Mirageas
 The Atlanta Symphony
 Orchestra



Evans Mirageas is currently vice president of Artistic Planning and Operations for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO), and the Harry T. Wilks Artistic Director of Cincinnati Opera. His work for the ASO includes assisting Music Director Robert Spano and Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles in all aspects of artistic season planning, as well as helping to identify the annual slate of guest conductors and soloists for the repertoire performed by the orchestra.

Also an active consultant, Mr. Mirageas provides strategic and artistic planning for arts organizations and individuals, including short-term consultancies while vacancies are filled, and long-term relationships to boost organizational profiles nationally and internationally. He also offers expertise in vocal casting, media strategy -- including audio and video

"Update on City of Decatur Projects"

Nov. 20 Mrs. Noor Abbady
Islamic Speakers Bureau

Nov. 27 No Meeting - Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday Lunches catered by Oakhurst Market

Decatur Rotary Club Officers

President:
Scott Thompson

President-Elect:
Amy Nash

Past President:
Peter Michelson

Secretary:
Doug Robinson

Treasurer:
Pete Pfeiffer

Sergeant-at-Arms:
John Drake

The Four-Way Test

recording production and distribution, internet presence, conductor and executive director searches, general career counseling, lectures, podcasts, and program book annotation. Mr. Mirageas's clients include l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts (summer home of the Philadelphia Orchestra), conductors David Charles Abell and Mei-Ann Chen.

Mirageas's experience in the arts has also included symphony administration with the Boston Symphony, and radio production with WFMT, Chicago. Evans Mirageas Consulting was founded in 1999 by Mr. Mirageas and his husband, Thomas Dreeze, following a seven-year appointment as senior vice president of artists and repertoire for Decca Records in London. Mr. Mirageas has been a presenter and lecturer at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart festival, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, St. Louis and Milwaukee. His record production credits include releases on Decca, Innova, AVIE, and Warner Classics. His executive and artistic search activities have included the Cincinnati Symphony, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and the Chicago Sinfonietta.

Oct. 16 Speaker Recap



Past President Bryan Downs (right) introduced Mark Johnson, a professional mentalist and psychic entertainer. Mark is a member and board member of the Buckhead Rotary Club and a member of the invitation-only Psychic Entertainers Association, an exclusive organization of nationally ranked professional mentalists, mind readers and psychic entertainers. He is a regular at the Punchline Comedy Club and Jerry Farber's Side Door in Atlanta.

In everything that we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

[For more information visit our website.](#)

[Check our club's calendar](#)

[District 6900 Website](#)



Good to Know

Meeting Place
Old Courthouse
Downtown Decatur
101 E. Court Square

Meeting Time
Every Friday
12:15 to 1:30 pm

Our Club
#4132, District #6900.

Mark graduated from LaGrange College with a degree in drama. During his time at LaGrange he served as the editor of the yearbook and managing editor of the school newspaper. Mark is also as a speech writer and presentation producer and works exclusively with senior executives. He lives in Smyrna with his wife and two rescue dogs: an arrogant and stubborn Scottish terrier; and a Siberian Husky who's still trying to figure out how she ended up in Cobb County.

Mark began his presentation by sharing with the club that Pastor Bevel Jones was a personal friend and mentor of his, as well as a surrogate father after the sudden passing of his parents when Mark was a college student.

Mark then proceeded to entertain the club with a number of demonstrations of his psychic powers:

- He asked Brandon Baines to write down his favorite vacation location, correctly identifying Pensacola.

- He asked Holly Bennett to come forward, telling her that he had memorized page-by-page passages from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." As they stood back-to-back, Holly selected page 92, and Mark appeared to be cheating by reading from his book. He correctly repeated numerous entries, and then revealed that his "book" was blank!

- He asked Keri Powell to write down the name of her elementary school best friend, asked Bob Wilson to write down the name of his first childhood pet, and asked Helen Ngo to draw a picture. With Dr. Mark Hastings as his verification person. Mark correctly divulged his correct answer for each secret question. It was amazing!

- Mark demonstrated the "secret square" showing how mathematical addition can result in amazing results in a square of 5 x 5 numbers with a single addition result.

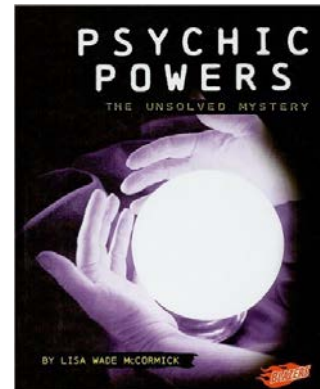
Mark's book is available at Eagle Eye Books; contact Doug Robinson for copies.

In honor of his visit presiding Past President Bryan presented a book to be donated to the DeKalb Library System, "Physic Powers; The Unsolved Mystery" by Lisa Wade McCormick.

Mailing Address
Decatur Rotary Club
PO Box 845
Decatur, GA 30031

Dues & Donations
\$275 quarterly dues
\$700 annual donation

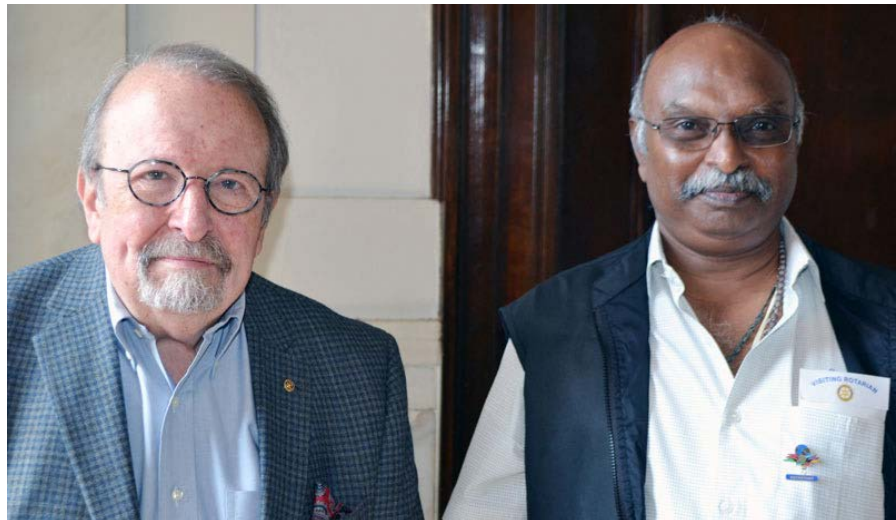
Newsletter
Submissions
Deadline is Monday at
noon. Send your news to
Adrienne Vinson at
adrienne.m.vinson@gmail.com



News and Announcements



Invocation
Given by Todd Speed



Speaker Mark Johnson (left) and visiting Rotarian V. Srinivasa

Visiting Rotarians
Presented by Brandon Baines
V. Srinivasa, Bangacor City Centre, India

Guests

Todd Speed introduced his guest Jim McGill, who has been personally involved in Rotary-supported well-drilling and clean water initiatives throughout the world, but most recently in Mzuzu, Malawi in Africa.

Brandon Baines introduced his guest, Degas Wright

Doug Torbush introduced a guest of the club, Helen Ngo, a financial planner.

John Bennett introduced his wife, Holly Bennett

Allison Weissinger introduced her guest, Belinda Pedroso, a DeKalb Library Trustee

Announcements

The next Thirsty Thursday is Nov. 5 at Makan at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Decatur, 130 Clairemont Ave. Bring a friend!

Herb McCoy reminded us that our club will be assisting Hagar's House, a homeless shelter for women and children, on the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 27. Please contact Herb about volunteer shifts and training.

Herb and James Brewer-Calvert alerted us to a service opportunity at Decatur Christian Church, selling Christmas trees and wreaths on Thursday, December 5, in two shifts: either 9 am-1 pm or 1-5 pm. Contact Herb or James to sign up.

Jim Jarboe needs 10 or 12 volunteers to participate in the "On the Same Page" youth literacy kickoff at Little Shop of Stories on October 22, 6:30-8:30 pm. Please contact Jim at jimsells1@comcast.net to volunteer. Jim promises this will be THE most enjoyable Rotary volunteer opportunity of the year!

Special Presentation by Walt Drake, Club Historian

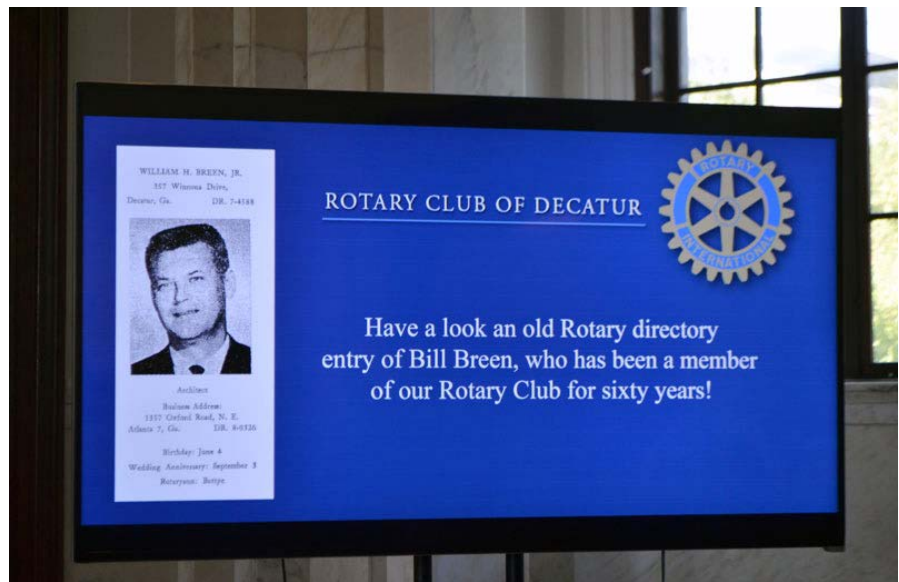


Recently, our District Governor Bob Hagan, honored club member Bill Breen, architect, by citing his 60 years of devotion to our club and the greater community. Walt (pictured above) detailed Bill's accomplishments:

Bill Breen was born in and grew up in Decatur, graduating from Decatur Boys High School in 1943. In high school, Bill was a National Honor Society recipient, and a member of ROTC. When he achieved very high scores on a pre-college test, he was invited to study aeronautical engineering in Alabama. After re-evaluating his passions, Bill decided to pursue a degree in architecture at Georgia Tech. Bill embarked on a successful career in architecture, married and had four children, and remained a resident of Decatur.

Bill became involved in Decatur politics, and was elected to the City Commission in the 1960s. Our small school system resulted in higher taxes, and the mayor recommended that Decatur merge with DeKalb County schools to lower tax rates. Bill was vehemently opposed to this proposal. So Bill ran for mayor, won the election, and as a result of his passion, we still have the amazing City Schools of Decatur today. Thank you, Bill!

Bill was responsible for appointing Walt Drake to the city commission, and Walt became Decatur's mayor in 1975. Bill invited Bedros Sharian Jr. to become a rotary member, and Bedros has an amazing record of Rotary perfect attendance, nearly 40 years! Bill Breen was also our club president in 1979-80, so he has served our community and our club in many ways throughout the years.



Around the Room



Herb McCoy and Vee Nelson



Guest Belinda Pedroso and Alison Wessinger



Warren Davidson and Charlie Bell

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our photographer Dr. Mark Hastings, editors Lori Ronca and Adrienne Vinson, graphic designer Marcia Lampe, reporter Betty Spiker and Director Alison Weissinger. Great job!

Sincerely,

The Rotary Bulletin Committee
Decatur Rotary Club