



# Decatur Rotary Club

## SPOKE 'N WHEEL

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October 27, 2010

The Decatur Wine Festival will be Saturday, November 6 on the Square in Downtown Decatur. The festival showcases organic and sustainably produced wines along with more than 350 other domestic and international selections. More information can be found by visiting <http://decaturwinefestival.com>.

Also, please visit our website at [decatur-rotary.org](http://decatur-rotary.org) where you can update your contact information, view videos from past Rotary meetings and find out who our upcoming speakers are. Don't forget to join our [LinkedIn Group](#) and [Facebook Page](#) as well!

Elliott Augustine & Andrea Greengard

### The Four-Way Test:

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?

### President's Corner



President C.J. called the meeting to order

### Announcements:

We are very sorry to announce the death of Ted O'Callaghan (Past President; Past District Governor). His obituary was read at the meeting, and can also be found [online](#). If you would like to sign the online Guest Book at Legacy.com, it is located [here](#).

**Thursday, November 6: Park Clean Up Day**



## Announcements

A new Decatur Rotary directory is in the works. Has your contact information changed? If you have NOT sent in your updated information, we need it now. Email your changes to **Vee Nelson** at [vee@vnelson.com](mailto:vee@vnelson.com).

### Rotary Networking Resources

District 6900 has created this resource to help Rotarians in our district find employment. To find out more visit the district web site [www.rotarydistrict6900.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6900.org) and look for Career Networking.

Decatur Rotary is now on Facebook. Check out the page for updates and become a fan. [Decatur Rotary Facebook Page](#)

Decatur Rotary is now on LinkedIn. Check our page for updates and to join our group. [Decatur Rotary LinkedIn Group](#)

**NEW!! Link to the most recent District 6900 Newsletter:** [District Newsletter](#)

## Book Of

When: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm (Registration: 8:00 to 8:30 am)  
Where: Dearborn Park, Decatur (Deerwood Drive at Midway Road)  
Food and live entertainment will follow the work session. For more info call 404-371-2540 or visit [www.ParkRenewalDay.com](http://www.ParkRenewalDay.com). You can also watch a short video about the event here.

### Volunteers Needed for Decatur Rotary Renewal Regiment:

Mark Whatley needs 15 volunteers for the Dearborn Park Renewal Day on November 6 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. (see above for more details on the event). Mark promises it will be a lot of fun for a great cause. Spouses and kids are welcome although anyone under the age of 18 needs to have a waiver signed. The best teams can win \$1,000 (1st prize), \$300 (2nd) and \$200 (3rd) plus there will be food and music too. Let Mark know ASAP if you can help by contacting him at [Markewhat@aol.com](mailto:Markewhat@aol.com) or 678-296-7984.

## J. Tom Morgan: Ignorance Is No Defense

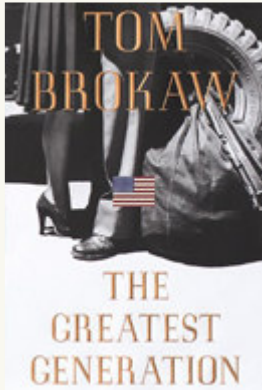
**President CJ Becker** introduced speaker J. Tom Morgan, a member of the Club. J. Tom served in the DeKalb County District Attorney's office for more than 20 years and was District Attorney from 1992 to 2004. He was the first prosecutor in Georgia to specialize in the prosecution of crimes against children and became a nationally recognized expert in this area. During his last term in office, President CJ was serving her first term as DeKalb Superior Court Judge. President CJ noted that many District Attorneys in Georgia serve as administrators and do not prosecute cases themselves. She said that J. Tom not only administered one of the largest D.A.'s offices in the State, he also prosecuted numerous cases - and not necessarily the high-profile ones. "I was always impressed that J. Tom would take on the toughest child abuse cases involving the tiniest victims," she said.



Today, J. Tom is in private practice and is the author of Ignorance is No Defense: A Teenager's Guide to Georgia

## The Week

### "The Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw



#### Book Description:

In this superb book, Tom Brokaw goes out into America, to tell through the stories of individual men and women the story of a generation, America's citizen heroes and heroines who came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America. This generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values--duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country, and, above all, responsibility for oneself. In this book, you will meet people whose everyday lives reveal how a generation persevered through war, and were trained by it, and then went on to create interesting and useful lives and the America we have today.

## Guests & Visitors

Law. First released three years ago, the book is now in its third printing. Almost 30,000 copies have been sold to teenagers throughout the state, and J. Tom has spoken at some 220 high schools. Somewhat humorously, J. Tom said, "This book and my message is about sex, drugs and alcohol, and their repercussions cross all lines -- race, religion, income."

J. Tom's mission is education, and his perspective is from both sides of the courtroom -- prosecution and defense. He said that at age 13, young people can be prosecuted as an adult for certain felony crimes (the "Seven Deadly Sins"), and at age 17, young people must be prosecuted as an adult for all crimes. At 18, a teenager can do everything an adult can do legally except possess and consume alcohol. He advocates raising the driving age from 16 to 18 and lowering the legal age for alcohol consumption to 19, citing the fact that the United States has the highest drinking age in the world and the attendant mixed messages.

"Criminal history starts the day you turn 17 and stays with you until the day you die," he said. As an example, two teenaged girls -- one who was 16 and her friend who had turned 17 two weeks earlier -- were caught shoplifting. The 16-year-old was found guilty of a "delinquent act" rather than a crime because due to her age, she was adjudicated in juvenile court. The young offender could honestly state in the future, such as on a job or college application, that she had never been convicted of a crime. Her 17-year-old friend, however, was prosecuted and punished as an adult as mandated by Georgia law, and her record will follow her for her entire life.

J. Tom also discussed the implications of cellphone and computer-based crimes and their serious implications. As an example, he said that an 18-year-old took a cellphone photo of his 17-year-old girlfriend and sent it to a friend. The young man was charged with distributing child pornography -- a felony.

J. Tom has written a new book A College Student's Guide to North Carolina Law and earlier this year, lectured on and distributed a "Spring Break" guide for teens. Copies of both Ignorance Is No Defense and A

**Ginny Byrd Porter**  
gave the invocation.

Our Guests included:

Mary Snodgrass: guest of  
**President CJ Becker**  
Jess Davis:  
guest of **Kyle Williams**

Chad Adams:  
guest of **Kyle Williams**

Kitty Crowley:  
guest of **Hugh Goodwin**

Carol Morgan:  
guest of **J. Tom Morgan**

Michael Davis:  
guest of **Jeremy Warner**

Our Visiting  
Rotarians included:

Jeff Lovejoy:  
North Atlanta

## Speakers At A Glance

October 29, 2010:  
Dick Yarbrough

November 5, 2010:  
Dr. Jagdish Sheth

November 12, 2010:  
TBA

## Officers of the Decatur Rotary Club:

President:  
C.J. Becker

President-Elect:

College Student's Guide were given to the DeKalb Library System in honor of J. Tom's visit with us.



Photo: Speaker J. Tom Morgan

In honor of our speaker, J. Tom Morgan, his book "Ignorance Is No Defense: A Teenager's Guide To Georgia Law" and "A College Student's Guide" was donated to the DeKalb County Library.

The meeting was then adjourned.

*Reported by Susan Cobleigh*

*Photography by Jon Manns*

'Round the Room...



Club members chat with **J. Tom Morgan** after the meeting

Jason Conn

Past President:  
Bryan Downs

Secretary:  
Betty Spiker

Treasurer:  
John Bennett

Sergeant-at-Arms:  
Doug Torbush

District Governor:  
Casey Farmer

## Birthdays!



October 8:  
John Robinson

October 15:  
Scott Stevenson

October 19:  
John Kozak

October 19:  
Bill Moon

October 28:  
Judy Turner

October 29:  
Rick Garnitz



**President C.J.** and **J. Tom Morgan** answer questions



**Robert Soens** and **Scott Thompson** catch up after the meeting



**Mark Hastings** and **President C.J.** chat at the lunch table

**Sincerely,**

The Rotary Bulletin Committee  
Decatur Rotary Club

**Directions:** [Old Courthouse on the Square](#)

[Forward email](#)

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