



WHAT'S HAPPENING

-October 28, 2015 | Be Involved, Be Engaged, Celebrate Rotary-

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This Week at Rotary

Michael Parks
 Rotary International Youth Exchange Program

A little more than 40 years ago, at a small high school in rural Oregon, Mike Parks noticed the big Rotary wheel on a poster on the wall. The poster said that the local Rotary club was searching for some extraordinary high school students to compete for the opportunity to represent their hometown for a one-year student exchange program in a foreign country. The selected students would have to be willing to become fluent in a foreign language and embrace a foreign culture. They would live for a year as an adopted family member of local host families, while at the same time excelling in academics at a local high school in an overseas country of Rotary's choosing. It sounded like the opportunity and challenge of a lifetime, so he applied, and was selected. That school year abroad as



Bureau

Nov. 27

No Meeting

Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec. 4

Ray Gilley

Development

Authority of Dekalb

a Rotary International youth exchange student changed his life forever. Today, Mike is leading the efforts to bring this extraordinary Rotary program to Georgia high school students in District 6900.

Mike is a graduate of the University of the Pacific Elbert Covell College of Inter-American Studies, where he was student body president, valedictorian, and he earned a bachelor of arts degree with a triple major in political science, public administration, and Spanish. All of his classes and coursework at UOP were conducted in the Spanish language. Mike has always had a passion for foreign languages and cultures. He is now fluent in four languages, and is a student of a number of others.

Friday
Lunches

catered by

Oakhurst Market

After graduating from university at age 21, Mike joined the airline industry as a sales representative for United Airlines and was quickly promoted to become the company's youngest regional manager. His career moved him to several different cities around the country, and progressively higher levels of responsibility. He eventually became senior vice president of electronic travel distribution for American Airlines/SABRE, responsible for sales, operations, and customer service in Latin America and the Caribbean. After a number of years leading the company's activities in that region, Mike was promoted to the same position for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and was based in London. Delta Air Lines and their travel technology company, Worldspan, recruited Mike to move to Atlanta in 2000 to become senior vice president of worldwide travel distribution, where he led a large global organization and expanded the company's operations into several new countries on every continent. Mike was a senior executive at Worldspan until the company was spun off and later acquired by a competitor to form a new company now known as Travelport.

Decatur
Rotary Club
Officers

President:
Scott Thompson

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Amy Nash

Past President:
Peter Michelson

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Doug Robinson

Treasurer:
Pete Pfeiffer

Sergeant-at-Arms:
John Drake

After a 30-year career in the travel industry, Mike is now retired and dedicates his time to family and not-for-profit activities. He serves on the board of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody as director of international service. Mike is a member of the Atlanta steering committee for the Human Rights Campaign, and serves as co-chair of that organization's major donors group. He also does volunteer work for Bert's Big Adventure, an Atlanta-based 501(c)(3) organization that takes chronic and terminally ill children and their families on all expense paid trips to Walt Disney World. Mike is a member of the Brazilian-American Chamber of Commerce - Southeast, and he occasionally does consulting work for large travel companies. Mike and

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?

[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.

Mailing Address

his partner, Claudio, live in the Buckhead area of Atlanta.

Oct. 16 Speaker Recap



Betty Spiker (left) introduced Evans Mirageas, vice president of artistic planning for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and artistic director for the Cincinnati Opera. Mr. Mirageas started out by relating his history with and fondness for Rotary. As a young clarinetist, he described opportunities he had to travel abroad that were sponsored through various Rotary clubs.

Mr. Mirageas stayed on the theme of mentorship and shared anecdotes from the many people throughout his life who took the time and the chance to mentor him. His anecdotes were punctuated with snippets of music that were pivotal in his development. He credited these many people with allowing him to live a great and fulfilling life surrounded by all aspects of music. He started by crediting his maternal grandmother, named Aphrodite, with his earliest exposure to music and dance - mostly traditional Greek folk tradition. This is where his love affair with the clarinet began.

Along the way, many others influenced him and guided him in different ways. He spoke of mentors and opportunities that led him to where he is today. As a high school band student, filing sheet music for the high school band, he was exposed to the music of the high school orchestra, fostering a new passion for classical music. While listening to classical music records for hours at a local record store, the exasperated owner eventually gave him a job and exposed him to live music and opera performances. The music director at the local public radio station challenged him in new ways, and a university impresario and countless others provided guidance, opportunities and mentoring along the

Decatur Rotary Club
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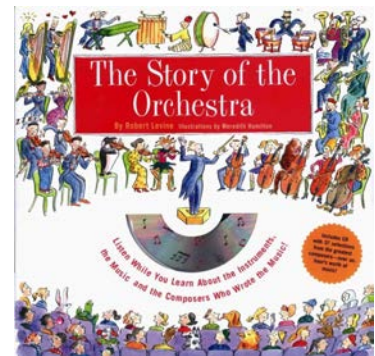
Dues & Donations
\$275 quarterly dues
\$700 annual donation

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

journey. He concluded by relating what a positive past year the ASO has had under the leadership of Terry Neal, a retired Coke executive, from whom he has learned even more, including the fact that you are never too old to mentor or to have a new mentor.



In honor of his visit President Scott presented a book to be donated to the DeKalb Library System, *The Story of the Orchestra* by Robert Levine.



News and Announcements

Invocation
Given by Tom Adams (right)

Visiting Rotarians
Presented by Noel Maloof

Bill Rosenfeld
Stone Mountain club

Bruce Gunter
Downtown Atlanta club

Guests
Presented by Jason Conn
Hank Spiker, guest of Betty Spiker
Jasmin Carter, guest of the club



Raphaelle Akhras, guest of the club
Ryan Florence, guest of Susie Simmons

Announcements

Bill Rosenfeld of the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain and membership chair of the DeKalb Rotary Council announced a raffle for a Big Green Egg. Tickets are \$20 and the winner will be randomly drawn at the DeKalb Rotary Council Holiday Party on December 7. President Scott will have tickets at the upcoming meetings. Bill also reminded the Club of the annual Joint Breakfast Meeting on Feb. 26 where Rotarians of the Year and many local teachers will be honored.

Jim Jarboe gave hearty thanks to all those who volunteered this past Thursday for On the Same Page events at Little Shop of Stories.



Jasmin Carter, a junior at Agnes Scott College, briefly shared her experiences attending Camp Vasara in Lithuania. Ms. Carter shared that this was her first experience traveling abroad. She found that not knowing the language was her major challenge, but appreciated the hands-on, immersive camp experience she had. She thanked the club for sponsoring her trip.

thirsty
thursday social

The next Thirsty Thursday is Nov. 5 at Makan at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Decatur, 130

Clairemont Ave. Bring a friend!

Around the Room



Evans Mirageas, Barbara Tedrow, and Alison Weissinger



Mac Willett, visiting Rotarian and DeKalb Rotary Council representative Bill Rosenfeld, and Robert Brown



Evans Mirageas, Tom Adams and Betty Spiker



Visiting Rotarian Bill Rosenfeld, our GRSP student Raphaelle Akras, and Jason Conn



Brett Price and Warren Davidson

Acknowledgements

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Sincerely,

The Rotary Bulletin Committee
Decatur Rotary Club

Directions: Old Courthouse on the Square