



July 29, 2015 | Be Involved, Be Engaged, Celebrate Rotary

In This Issue

- At the Podium**
- Aug. 7
Garrick Scott
National Federation for the Blind
 - Aug. 14
Bob Bachman
Emory University Hospital
 - Aug. 21
Debra Lowe
Rotary Foundation
 - Aug. 28
Terri Kruzan
Decatur Study on Aging
 - Sept. 4
No meeting
 - Sept. 11
Renay Blumenthal



August 6 | 5:30-7:30 PM
 The Marlay House
 426 W. Ponce De Leon Ave.
 Decatur 30030

Join us for our August Thirsty Thursday and remember to BYOW (Bring Your Own Wallet) for your beverages, etc.

This Week at Rotary

Daren Wang
 Executive Director
 AJC Decatur Book Festival

Daren Wang founded the AJC Decatur Book Festival in

Grady Foundation

Sept. 18
TBA

Sept. 25
Dave Schmit
Schmit & Associates

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

In everything that we
think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all
concerned?

February 2005, convening booksellers, presenters, authors, arts advocates, and community leaders to start planning and fundraising.

Before that, he worked in public radio for 15 years, specializing in programming focused on authors, literature, and the arts. He's produced programs featuring such luminaries as Kurt Vonnegut, Sidney Poitier, Alice Walker, Charles Frazier, Barry Hannah, Philip Glass, Reynolds Price, and Jimmy Carter. He was the last person to interview James Dickey before his death in 1997.



Series which he has produced and or hosted include The Spoken Word, Porches: The South and Her Writers, Circle of Friends, Between the Lines, ArtVoice, and Atlanta Forum.

Wang is a graduate of Cornell University. He lives in Decatur with his wife Eva.

Last Week's Speaker Recap



John Cushnie (left) introduced our speaker, Fabiola Charles Stokes, community impact manager for Google Fiber. She is responsible for developing and driving Google's external partnerships relating to Google Fiber, as well as for community relations.

Google Fiber began in 2010 with Google's "Think Big with a Gig" challenge, in which it asked cities around the

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
Decatur Rotary Club
PO Box 845
Decatur, GA 30031

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

Newsletter Submissions
Deadline is Monday at noon.

country whether they would be interested in gigabit internet speeds. A total of 1,100 cities responded.

In 2011, Google Fiber began work in its first city - Kansas City, Kansas. In 2013, it moved on to its second city - Austin, Texas. And in January 2015, Google Fiber chose a number of cities within the Atlanta metropolitan area (including Decatur) for its next expansion.



The Atlanta Google Fiber Cities announcement.

Google Fiber will provide very high-speed Internet connections (100 times the speed the average American household currently experiences) and television. The average American currently gets about 11.5 megabytes/second download speed, which places the US at about 14th in the world in Internet speed. With Google Fiber, the US will be able to compete among the countries with the fastest Internet speeds in the world.

Currently, Google Fiber is in the construction phase. It started construction in Midtown Atlanta, and is moving out from there. The first step is to build a "fiber ring" around the city. That ring will then connect to "fiber huts," and each hut will serve 20,000 to 25,000 homes.

Google does not currently have a schedule for when its work will be completed in the various neighborhoods around Decatur and Atlanta.

Google Fiber also has a community focus. Fabiola Charles Stokes works with local nonprofit groups that are focused on promoting access to the Internet and promoting digital literacy. Google also plans to provide Google Fiber free of charge to certain public housing units around Atlanta.

Send your news to
Adrienne Vinson at
adrienne.m.vinson@gmail.com



Tom Adams presented the book, *Design, Make, Play: Growing the Next Generation of STEM Innovators* by Margaret Honey and David E. Kanter, to be placed in the DeKalb library system in honor of the speaker's visit.

News and Announcements

Invocation
Given by Todd Speed

Visiting Rotarians
Dr. Steve Bethea (Rotary Club of Buckhead)



Guests

Claire Dishman (left), guest, and daughter, of Alan Dishman.

Announcements



Todd Speed (left), Tom Adams and Jason Conn

Todd Speed presented the Family of Rotary news, highlighting Herb McCoy's recent selection as "Champion of the Week" by the DeKalb Champion newspaper. Congratulations, Herb!

Past President Tom Adams, presiding over today's meeting in President Scott's absence, announced that Decatur Rotary's next First Thursday gathering is scheduled for August 6, from 5 to 7:30 pm at the Marlay House in downtown Decatur. And the latest issue of the Rotarian should have been delivered to everyone's mailboxes by now.

Jason Conn discussed the arrival, from Lebanon, of the newest Georgia Rotary student program participant. Our club is co-sponsoring the student with the Rotary clubs of Emory/Druid Hills and Midtown. Jason is seeking ideas for daytime activities that might be appropriate for the student. He also needs volunteers to travel to the airport on August 9 to greet the student.

Camp Vasara 2015 Report

A partnership with Vilnius Lithuania International Rotary Club for a week-long program with socially at-risk students.



From left: Jasmine Carter (Agnes Scott College), Wren Ballou (Decatur High School), Camille Trimble (Vilnius Rotary Intern), Agne Ru (Vilnius Rotary Intern)

Q: Is this a worthwhile project for the Decatur Rotary Club? Do the students who go as service learning interns from our club get some benefit from working with students who are at risk?

Barbara Tedrow: "Yes, it is worthwhile for the young camp attendees to have another set of ears listening to them and helping them adjust to their environment. Camp Vasara offers them an opportunity to practice their English and to see needs in other cultures. To do that they build skills to live, just for a little bit, on the edge. By edge, I mean a place where we feel a little inadequate and must figure things out. It is the edge because the US college freshman and sophomore college students do not know the Lithuanian culture and language. We are eating strange food, learning to meet the camp's expectations and trying to make friends with people our own age from Lithuania who work as counselors. This means at least half the time we all wonder what to do next."

Wren Ballou, service learning intern scholarship recipient from Decatur High and a rising freshman at University of Georgia had this to say:

"This was different than my other trip. In the past, I was

on a trip with guides, and we sat on a bus traveling around. I was an arm chair traveler. I think my IB degree is more about this kind of trip.

I practiced my very limited Lithuanian, I tried the food at camp, I played soccer and accepted the help of the Lithuanian camp counselors . . . all of whom were in high school. The young children at the camp were incredibly kind to me. Jasmine (Carter), the Agnes Scott student, and I shared a room so we could get plenty of sleep. Yes, this was an important experience . . . and could be for other students. Life in Decatur is far more sheltered than the students' lives of the same age who live in Vilnius. The programs were very good. Thank you so much for choosing me to receive the scholarship."

A note from the
International Service Committee

Like to "live on the edge"? Consider chaperoning two students to Vilnius. This is a unique experience for high school seniors, one that will immerse them in a culture and place that is out of the mainstream. Next year we could be looking for a club member or a previous Camp Vasara intern to lead two more students to Vilnius for one week at the end of June. No tents! Home base is a retreat house with private bathrooms, rented by the Rotary International Club of Vilnius for the week.

If you are interested contact Barbara Tedrow, Harl Pike, Pete Pfeiffer, or Eric Lucas.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our reporter James Cobb and our photographer Mark Hastings. Great job!

Sincerely,

The Rotary Bulletin Committee
Decatur Rotary Club