Sept. 26 Rotary Meeting Park Hotel
Michael Schuler: Toxic Talk – Is There an Antidote?

Join us next week, September 26, when guest presenter Michael Schuler will talk about civil discourse. He will provide some examples of what has become a rather widespread phenomenon, encompassing but transcending, the political sphere.

From 1988-2018 Michael Schuler served as the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Society of Madison, one of the largest Unitarian Universalist congregations in North America. Under his leadership the Society’s membership increased three-fold. At his retirement at the end of June, the congregation honored him with the designation Minister Emeritus.

Locally he has served on the Board of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice, the Steering Committee of Dane County United and has participated in multicultural and interfaith panels discussing racial equity, reproductive choice and other subjects.

Schuler earned his Bachelor’s degree in political science from Eckerd College; received his Master’s in Divinity degree from Starr King School; and holds a Doctorate degree in the Humanities from Florida State University. He is a life-long distance runner who has completed ten 26.2 mile marathons, and he also practices t’ai chi and yoga. Michael and his wife, Trina, live in Madison.

To plan for sufficient seating, members bringing guests to our weekly meetings are asked to contact the Rotary office with the number of guests you plan to bring by Tuesday noon (rotaryoffice@rotarymadison.org or phone 255-9164).

MSO Celebrating 25 Years

Madison Symphony Orchestra conductor John DeMain joined us in his first event to celebrate the 25th year of his leadership here in Madison. Twenty-five years is an extraordinary time for a modern conductor to stay with an orchestra. We have been lucky to have him here for a quarter century.

John began by very generously crediting his predecessor, Roland Johnson, for his long service to the MSO and as creator of the Madison Opera as part of the MSO. He credited Mr. Johnson with making the orchestra professional and with recruiting the services of UW faculty and students. John also explained the changes that he has brought. At one time, the orchestra performed eight single concerts a year. When Roland Johnson passed the baton to John, he urged him to build on his work developing an audience. John has tripled the audience during his tenure. Today, the season consists of a series of eight concerts, each performed three times, on Friday and Saturday evening and on Sunday afternoon. The MSO has done more than increase its audience and its string section (now full-sized). In his first year, John initiated blind auditions for prospective musicians. UW faculty joined the orchestra, which encouraged their students to participate as well. The result was fine musicianship. [Anyone who has heard the MSO will agree that it is shockingly good. Its string section is vibrant and its sound has a sheen.]
John also thanked Pleasant and Jerry Frautschi for their astounding gift of the Overture Center, including Overture Hall, which has a splendid acoustic that allows us to hear how beautifully the MSO plays. John also spoke of the several associated organizations and programs affiliated with the MSO.

John concluded on a somewhat somber note. Former UW Chancellor John Wiley was in attendance. He upgraded the School of Music during his tenure. Some of his work is being undone because of funding woes: many of the faculty are no longer tenure-track. They and their students are less likely to join the MSO. However, fine musicians from elsewhere are maintaining the orchestra's excellence.

The Maestro made one last point: Madisonians should include the MSO in their entertainment options. This reviewer agrees. As an old ad in New York once proclaimed: "Try It, You'll Like It."

Our thanks to John DeMain for speaking to our club this week and to Rich Leffler for preparing this review article. We also express a special thanks to the MSO: The Rhapsodie Quartet: Susanne Beia, Laura Burns, Chris Dozoryst and Karl Lavine. The quartet performed a movement from the American String Quartet written by Antonin Dvořák. If you missed our meeting this week, you can watch the video here.

Coffee Connections Start Sept. 26 at Park Hotel
Starting on September 26th, the Park Hotel will be setting up an area just inside of our meeting room for any members who want to arrive early to have a cup of coffee and connect with other members. This area will be set up by 11 am each week with a few tabletops where you can stand and have conversations each week before our meeting begins. We hope you find this a convenient way to make connections with other members.

Rotary Speakers on YouTube
As a reminder, we record most of our weekly speakers and have a team of volunteers who record the speakers each week. Members who volunteer are: Brian Basken, John Bonsett-Veal, Pete Christianson, Andrea Kaminski, Stan Kitson, Sandy Morales, Sean Morrison, Paul Ranola and Ross Squires. Thanks to these members for helping us reach further into the community with our videorecorded speakers.

Thanks to Brian Basken and Jason Beren for creating a new introduction of these videos which is shown at the beginning of each videorecorded speaker. Click to watch past speakers on our club's YouTube Channel.

An added benefit is that members can receive a make-up for watching a past speaker for a missed meeting 14 days before or after. All you need to do to receive a make-up credit is to send an email to the Rotary office to let them know what speaker you watched and the date you watched it.

Annual Swarsensky Humanitarian Award Nominations Due Oct. 1
Downtown Rotary Announces Nominations for Club's Prestigious Manfred E. Swarsensky Humanitarian Service Award & $2500 Grant: Due to Rotary office on Oct. 1 2018; to be presented at club luncheon this November

The Rotary Club of Madison, also known as Downtown Rotary, has announced that nominations for its prestigious annual Manfred E. Swarsensky Humanitarian Service Award are now being accepted.

Rabbi Swarsensky was a beloved member of Downtown Rotary for 22 years, served as rabbi of Madison’s Temple Beth El and on the faculty of Edgewood College. He died in 1981 at the age of 75. Inspired by his remarkable life, the club established the award in 1982 to honor his memory. Its purpose is to identify and honor individuals who have, through their voluntary efforts, made a particularly outstanding contribution to humanitarian service in the greater Madison community and beyond, in the tradition so well exemplified by Rabbi Swarsensky. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a broad community interest as advanced by the rabbi, whether through a single community agency or service, or
The club seeks nominees who, like Rabbi Swarsensky, have helped build bridges and sought reconciliation between groups and individuals.

The award will be presented at a Wednesday luncheon meeting of the club’s large membership this November and will include a $2500 grant to one or more of the charitable organizations in the greater Madison area selected by the awardee.

**RABBI MANFRED SWARSENSKY: LIFELONG HUMANITARIAN:** Born in Prussia in 1906, Manfred Swarsensky was a young rabbi known for his brilliant sermons at one of Berlin’s leading synagogues when the Nazis burned it down, as they did most Jewish institutions and businesses, and imprisoned him in a concentration camp in 1938. After most of his family perished in the Holocaust, he settled in Madison to lead the then new Temple Beth El. Rather than retreat into bitterness, he dedicated the rest of his life to peacemaking, forgiveness and building bridges. “The power of love is stronger and more enduring that the forces of hate,” said Rabbi Swarsensky.

Rabbi Swarsensky’s life is a testimony to what one person can do to better the lives of others. He was known statewide for his commitments to social justice, civil rights, religious tolerance, inter-faith dialogue and furthering forgiveness and reconciliation.

His funeral was attended by hundreds from Madison and beyond. Both of Madison’s daily newspapers ran editorials and numerous news stories praising his life. Sermons in his memory were delivered at numerous churches across the city. *The Capital Times* called him, “a voice of conscience.” *The Wisconsin State Journal*, calling him “a symbol of tolerance,” said, “he vaulted the barriers of faith, of class, of age, of any and all bias to help others.”

To learn more about Rabbi Swarsensky and to prepare the strongest submission possible, nominators are encouraged to watch this award-winning 9-minute video about his life and work which may be found online on YouTube at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51xmORReEUs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51xmORReEUs)

The award nomination form is located on our website: [https://rotarymadison.org/wp-content/forms/Swarsensky%20Nomination%20FILL%20IN%20Form%202018.docx](https://rotarymadison.org/wp-content/forms/Swarsensky%20Nomination%20FILL%20IN%20Form%202018.docx)

Completed forms are due by Oct. 1, 2018, to Rotary Club of Madison’s office.

**Know A High School Student Who Would Like to Spend 2019-20 Abroad?**

**Pass Along This in Rotary Youth Exchange Information**

Our Rotary District is seeking area high school students interested in traveling abroad for the 2019-20 academic year. Eligible students cannot be younger than 15½ on August 1, 2019; not older than 18½ on August 1, 2019; and must have a minimum of 2.75 GPA or student ranking in the top 50% of their class.

For more detailed information, visit: [https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50254/page/rotary-youth-exchange-(outbound)](https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50254/page/rotary-youth-exchange-(outbound))

The deadline to apply is October 15, 2018.

**Second Century Fellowship Group Gets VIP Tour of The Sylvee**

Our club’s Second Century Fellowship Group received a VIP tour of The Sylvee—a new venue for emerging artists, established cultural icons and community events located at 25 South Livingston Street in Madison on September 12.

Our thanks to club member Renee Frank for organizing this tour of her family’s legacy "to become the new epicenter for live music in the Midwest."
As a participant, you will…

- Be prepared to answer the question, “Why Rotary?”
- Be inspired to build membership, enhance public image, and do humanitarian service through The Rotary Foundation
- Understand the value of being a Rotarian
- Be inspired to be a part of Rotary’s Public Image campaign, *People of Action*
- *Be the Inspiration*, living out Rotary’s theme for 2018-19
- Take home a One Rotary Toolkit for use in your club

**September Rotary District Newsletter**

The September edition of the Rotary District 6250 Newsletter, *The District Dispatch*, is now available. [Click](#) to read about happenings within our Rotary District.
Members in the News

- **Sharyl Kato** was interviewed by Neil Heinen on “For the Record” on September 9 about the Greater Madison Vision Regional Planning Initiative.
- **Charles McLimans** was quoted in an article titled, “The River Food Pantry aims to double space by 2020, expand services in Madison.” TCT 9/12/18
- **Oscar Mireles** was featured in a Fox 47 news story on September 16 titled, “Poetry on the sidewalk: Monroe’s new art installation surprises.”
- Congratulations to **Paul Riehemann** who recently competed in the 1/2 Ironman World Championship in South Africa.

**OUR SYMPATHIES**….Former Rotarian Max Gaebler passed away on September 7. We extend our condolences to Max’s family.

Happy Birthday!

- **Sept. 23 -- Bridget Fraser** -- Adm. Date: 04/02/2014  Arts-Performing. Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras  Formerly Rotarian at Rockton, IL 2007-10  PHF
- **Sept. 23 -- Allan Koritzinsky** -- Adm. Date: 09/04/2013  Law. Allan R. Koritzinsky LLC  Former Member 1998-2010
- **Sept. 23 -- Peggy Lescrenier** -- Adm. Date: 09/03/2003  Manufacturing-Retired.  Rotarian at Milwaukee 1990-2002  PHF
- **Sept. 25 -- Bill Haight** -- Adm. Date: 06/05/2013  Printing & Publishing. Magna Publications  PHF
- **Sept. 26 -- Joyce Bromley** -- Adm. Date: 11/05/2014  Consulting. Bromley Consulting Group  PHF (3)
- **Sept. 26 -- Joanna Burish** -- Adm. Date: 11/04/2009  Real Estate. MTI, LLC  Director 2015-17
- **Sept. 27 -- Brian Koch** -- Adm. Date: 04/03/2013  Brokerage & Investments.  You Financial Group
- **Sept. 29 -- Curt Brink** -- Adm. Date: 06/06/2007  Real Estate.  Curt Vaughn Brink Companies

Weekly Statistics

**Guest List for Sept. 19, 2018**
Suzanne Beia, Laura Burns, Chris Dozoryst & Karl Lavine, Ann Bowen, Peter Rodgers & Kathryn Schwarzmann of Elaine Mischler & Martha Casey; Nick Mischler of Elaine Mischler; Barbara DeMain, John Wiley, Mary Alice Wimmer & Rick Mackie of Program Committee; Karen King of Eugenia Sherman Brown; Jill Way of Anne Lucke; Lynne Judd of Roth Judd; Michael George & Beth Larson of Bridget Fraser; Howard Kidd of Margaret Murphy; Marilyn Ebben of Jim Ebben; Geert Far Krol of Scott Haumersen; Greg Zelek & Dorothy Brown of Ellsworth Brown; Ross Cowing of Joe Bartol

**Visiting Rotarian List for Sept. 19, 2018**
David Clemens from Wisconsin Dells

**Attendance Record**

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<th>Date</th>
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