October 2 Rotary Meeting at Park Hotel
Andy & Dee J. Hall: Journalism at Risk, and on the Rise

Next week, on October 2, at the Park Hotel, our guest speakers, Andy and Dee J. Hall, co-founders of the nonpartisan and nonprofit Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, will explore the forces imperiling local news in Wisconsin and nationwide; why this threatens our democracy; and what journalists and the public can do about it.

Since they launched the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism in their basement in 2009, it has blossomed into a national model for reinvigorating local and state investigative journalism. The Center and its news outlet, Wisconsin Watch (WisconsinWatch.org), increase the quality, quantity and understanding of investigative journalism to inform the citizenry and strengthen democracy in an era when the traditional economic pillars of journalism are faltering. The Center trains paid interns and fellows in investigative reporting and public engagement and marketing to ensure the rise of a new generation of investigative journalists equipped to sustain this critical work for decades to come.

Andy and Dee met in the late 1970s at the campus newspaper at Indiana University in Bloomington, worked for eight years as reporters at The Arizona Republic in Phoenix in the 1980s, and moved to Madison in 1990 to begin reporting jobs at the Wisconsin State Journal. Andy worked at the State Journal for 18 years until leaving to launch the Center. Dee co-founded the Center and stayed at the State Journal until 2015, when she became managing editor of Wisconsin Watch, running the daily news operations. They're most proud, though, of the accomplishments of the Center's interns and fellows who produce much of its award-winning work and now are excelling in journalism and related fields across Wisconsin, the nation and the world.

**If you have a question for next week’s speakers, please send your question via email to the Rotary office by 4 pm on Tuesday, October 1, so we can incorporate it into any Q&A session for our speakers on October 2.**

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 (608-255-9164 or rotaryoffice@rotarymadison.org).

**Speaker Q&A Section**
As a reminder, we are continuing to experiment with alternate options for our Q&A section of the speaker presentation as we evaluate what works best overall. The current format is that members who have a question should submit it to the Rotary office by 4 pm on Tuesday before our Wednesday meeting (see end of preview article for more details). These questions are provided to president Andrea to be asked during the time allotted by the speaker at the meeting. Our speakers have generously also been available after the meeting adjourns for anyone who has an additional question that comes up during the meeting. Club leaders continue to collect feedback from members, and an update report will be provided in a few weeks.
Creating Meaningful Conversations About Immigration

Karen Menendez Coller, Centro Hispano of Dane County Executive Director, shared how recent policies affect the Latino community.

Dr. Coller started with an overview of the state’s Latino community. Seven percent of the population is Latino, and 27 percent are foreign born. One fourth are K-12 students, and 34 percent live in poverty.

Opportunity barriers: segregation, poverty, language, mobility, single parent households, housing cost and education. Coller shared three policies impacting Latinos and our economy she hopes Rotarians will talk about with their networks. Drivers’ Licenses for all is the first policy Coller highlighted. The bill has support from the business community as it will increase safety and bring needed employees, especially on dairies where half of workers are Latino. Coller shared the story of Mario, from Honduras. He is now a herdsman in DeForest with a close bond to his employer family. He needs a license to drive to the farm.

Public Charge laws are the second policy Coller is concerned with. These laws are designed to make it harder for families who use government benefits 12 out of 36 months to get citizenship. Coller shared the story of Jennifer, a legal permanent resident originally from Colombia, now a certified doula. Jennifer has used government services and just wants to improve her family’s life.

In-state tuition is the third policy Coller would like to offer deferred action students, i.e. those who are citizens but with undocumented parents. They are forced to pay the $40,000-$45,000 out of state UW-Madison tuition rate despite graduating from a Wisconsin High School having citizenship. Coller shared the story of Gilberto, a dreamer working three jobs.

Coller urged Rotarians to vote and learn about the estimated ten percent of Wisconsinites who are undocumented.

Our thanks to Karen Menéndez Coller for speaking to us and to Valerie Renk for providing this review article. If you missed our meeting this week, you can watch it on our club’s YouTube channel here.

Welcome Rotary Friendship Exchange Group from The Netherlands

Rotary Friendship Exchange is an international exchange program for Rotary members and friends that allows participants to take turns hosting one another in their homes and clubs.

A Rotary Friendship Exchange Group from The Netherlands joined us at our luncheon this week. They arrived in Madison on September 19 and have been partaking in many activities: attending a UW Badger football game at Camp Randall Stadium; a traditional fish fry at the Hilltop Restaurant; touring our State Capitol Building; just to name a few. Our thanks to member Margaret Murphy for helping to arrange home stays and transportation for our guests during their visit to Madison and to all other Rotarians who assisted with the group.

Susan Schmitz Receives 2019 Mitch Javid Award

Presented by Bob Sorge - Sept. 25, 2019

Our Member Development Committee is tasked with building and sustaining membership for our club. One of the committee’s goals is to continue to strive to keep members engaged and participating with a goal of retaining members.

In 2014, the committee developed a new award to recognize a member who is sponsoring new members into our club since this is crucial for the future of our club. The award is named the Mitch Javid Award to honor a distinguished member, and it annually recognizes a member who has served as the primary sponsor to the most new members for the past 3 years—and who are still in our club.
For those who do not know Mitch Javid for which the award is named, Mitch has been in our club since 1968 and has sponsored 56 members and co-sponsored another 10 members. This distinguished and very busy member who was chairman of the UW Department of Neurosurgery says, “I love Rotary. It is very dear to me. I believe in it, and so I want to share it with other good people.” Mitch received the first award in 2014, Rob Stroud in 2015 and Dora Zuniga in 2016.

This year’s recipient, who was the award winner in 2017 and 2018, is once again Susan Schmitz. Susan has served as the primary sponsor to 6 new members since July of 2016, and those new members are Bradley Campbell, Len Devaisher, Scott Forester, Raj Shukla, Alan Steinhauer and Karla Thennes.

Susan has been in our club since 1989 and retired in 2018 from Downtown Madison, Inc. She was our club president in 1995-96 and has served in many other roles. She continues to be active with our Member Development Committee and has sponsored 14 of our current members.

We encourage each of you to think about who might make a good addition to our Rotary Club. Maybe it is a co-worker, a friend or a neighbor. The process is easy. You bring a qualified person to a luncheon, and we offer one complimentary lunch to a potential new member. You just need to let the office know that you are bringing a potential new member. After the person attends a meeting, you fill out a blue membership proposal form. The form is always available at our registration table at meetings and can be downloaded from our website. You submit the form to the Rotary office along with the person’s resume, and the office will coordinate the details from there.

Thank you.
Manfred E. Swarsensky Humanitarian Service Award Nominations Due to Rotary Office on October 1, 2019; Award Presentation 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 many. 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 $2,500 grant to a charitable organization 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 than 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.

The Capital Times called him “a voice of conscience.” The Wisconsin State Journal called him “a symbol of tolerance.”

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)

Click on the following link for this year’s nomination form which is due in the Rotary office by Oct. 1, 2019:

[https://rotarymadison.org/wp-content/forms/Swarsensky%20Nomination%20FILL%20IN%20Form%202019.docx](https://rotarymadison.org/wp-content/forms/Swarsensky%20Nomination%20FILL%20IN%20Form%202019.docx)

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**Pints for Polio Event October 24th at Great Dane Pubs in Madison**

October 24th is World Polio Day and to celebrate, all Madison Great Dane Pubs will be donating $1 to Rotary’s Polio Plus Fund for every pint, crowler, growler and 6 pack sold that day. Every dollar donated will be matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

All Rotary members are encouraged to help support this event and attend with families and friends!

If you want to have a pint or a meal with other Rotarians from our Club and their guests, stop by the Great Dane Pub’s downtown location at 123 Doty Street on October 24th from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

You can also purchase a Pints for Polio t-shirt at a cost of $15/shirt. Here is a link to purchase a t-shirt: [https://madison-top-company.printavo.com/merch/pintsforpolio/products/pints-for-polio-t-shirt](https://madison-top-company.printavo.com/merch/pintsforpolio/products/pints-for-polio-t-shirt). The deadline to purchase a t-shirt is September 27.
Wishing You a Happy Birthday!

- Sept. 29 -- Curt Brink -- Adm. Date: 6/6/2007  Real Estate. Curt Vaughn Brink Companies
- Oct. 5 -- Mike Crane -- Adm. Date: 10/3/2012  Communications. Wisconsin Public Radio  Formerly Rotarian at Orlando, FL 2006-07  PHF

Weekly Statistics

MakeUp Artists
Amato, Nino at Frankfurt, KY 9/4 & Lexington, KY 9/11 & 9/18; Fauerbach, Neil at Portland, OR 8/27; Holmes, Teresa at Toledo, OH 8/26; Kazamias, Valerie at Athens, Greece 7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27, 9/3, 9/10 & 9/11; Schwartz, Lee at Colorado Springs, CO 9/11

Guest List for September 25, 2019
Dena Wortzel of Program Committee, Claude Gilmore of Ron Luskin; Tania Ibarra & Carla Garces of Sandy Morales; Shiva Bidar of Juli Aulik; Matt Coolten of Gini Hendrickson; Jeanne Kaeter of Gail Selk; Ally Shepherd (Rotary Global Scholar) of Ted Ballweg; John Lerner of Deb Archer; Celia Huerta of Sharyl Kato

Visiting Rotarian List for September 25, 2019
Harm Jan Timmer, Miep van Hees, Andrea Kwint-Smit, Bert Kwint, Louis Journee, Francie Kaajik-Jacobsw, Maarten Kaajik & Pieter Schouten from The Netherlands (Rotary Friendship Exchange); Jim Emerick & Mary Van Hout from WT-Middleton; Edwin Bos (Rotary District 6250 Governor) from Fort Atkinson; Lyda Phillips from Frankfurt, KY (guest of Nino Amato)

Attendance Record

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