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**Coming Up**

**February 7**

Jay Salmen, President  
Sun Country

**February 14**

Dr. Chuck Schultz  
U of M Dept. of Psychiatry  
Tim Burkett  
People Incorporated

**February 21**

Wilson Bradshaw  
“The Future of the Twin Cities”

**February 28**

Commissioner Gene Merrinan  
Minnesota DNR

**Group Study Exchange - Taiwan**

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of The Rotary Foundation is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 and in the early years of their professional lives. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries.



Members of GSE Team to Taiwan (left to right (Doug Johnson, Team Leader, Seth Werner, Laurie Kivel, Kim Cusick and Michael Reed

Kim Cusick and Michael Reed were two of four GSE team members selected to represent Rotary District 5960 to Central Taiwan’s Rotary District 3960. The GSE team, made up of PDG Doug Johnson, Team Leader, Kim Cusick, Laurie Kivel, Michael Reed and Seth Werner, departed for Taichung County, Taiwan on March 11 and returned on April 9, 2005. While in Central Taiwan, the GSE Team toured public and private hospitals, universities and schools, manufacturing facilities, a waste-to-energy facility, government

offices and museums, hydroelectric and coal fired power plants, historic and cultural sites, agricultural regions and an international sea port. Over the 28 days they had the opportunity to meet Rotarians from over 80 Clubs. Each team member was hosted by nine separate families during the stay. During the trip they made over 20 presentations to Taiwanese Rotary Clubs and University students. They have also shared their experiences of Taiwan with numerous groups upon their return.

Michael Reed currently works for Ramsey County Environmental Health. His responsibilities include work in the areas of solid, hazardous and infectious waste management, recycling, composting, policy & planning and technical assistance. Kim Cusick is currently employed with Securian Financial Group in the Network Systems department. She hold a B.A. in Russian Area Studies from the College of St. Catherine.





## Rotary in Review January 24, 2006



Ken Cooper  
Scribe

President **Marj Griffing** called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

**Jerry Faletti** led us in singing *America the Beautiful*. **Rob Fulton** offered the invocation. **Bob Larson** and **Shelly**

**Rose** were today's greeters. **Julie Manworren** circulated through the audience to introduce visiting Rotarians and guests of Saint Paul Rotarians.

**Inna Tobak** announced our next special events outing – a dinner theatre production of *The Rainmaker* on the Centennial Showboat on Friday, February 24. The cost is \$54.00/person. Call the Rotary office (651 222-2028) to make reservations. Guests are welcome

A motion was made, seconded and approved to send a letter to the General Secretary of Rotary International appealing the decision of the Rotary International Board of Directors Decision B-22b and dismiss the complaint of the Blackfriars, England club and restore Donald Osburn as the nominee for president of Rotary International for 2007-2008.

**Patricia McDonald** introduced our speakers, **Harry Davis** and Lori Sturdivant. They delivered a fascinating look into the life of a leading force for racial justice in our area, and the repulsive reality that needed changing. Harry Davis, a member of the Minneapolis Rotary Club, is a veteran of the civil rights movement in our community. He was a leading voice for the cause during much of the twentieth century. Mr. Davis was the first executive director of the Urban

Coalition of the Twin Cities, the first black mayoral candidate endorsed by a major party, a twenty-year member of the Minneapolis School Board, and is a retired vice president of the Star Tribune. Harry is a former official with the U.S. Olympic Boxing Committee and the winningest amateur boxing coach in state history.

Lori Sturdivant, a journalist with the *Star Tribune* for over thirty years and winner of numerous awards, has a masters in journalism from the University of Minnesota and was editor of two books by the late Governor **Elmer L. Andersen**, a former member of the St. Paul Rotary Club. Ms. Sturdivant helped compile Harry Davis's story into two books, *Overcoming: An Autobiography of Harry Davis* and *Change-maker*, a book for young readers.

This scribe must apologize because he was so engaged in the presentations of both Lori and Harry, that he simply forgot to make notes several times including when Lori Sturdivant read a passage from *Overcoming* as a way of introducing the local civil rights situation and Harry's life. It was absorbing and revealing. (I've ordered the book through Amazon.)

Mr. Davis then told us about his life. So much to tell and so little time to tell it. The minutes flew by. Harry was born and raised in Minneapolis. His father was a catcher with the Kansas City Monarchs of the old Negro League. (For anyone not knowing baseball history, the Monarchs were the "Yankees" of the league. And, imagine how good the league must have been, having a monopoly on black ballplayers.)

Harry reminded us of Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio, then told us that he had polio as a child in 1924. Then, it was called infantile paralysis. He was paralyzed from the

waist down. In addition to regular medical treatment, his mother applied her knowledge that had been passed down from an ancestor who was a doctor. She soaked him in warm water, massaged him thoroughly and helped him to recover sufficiently to attend a Minneapolis school (Dowling) for crippled kids. He was the first black student.

When the white children were taken to Shriners Hospital in St. Paul for treatment, Harry was left behind. A kind doctor took him to General Hospital in Minneapolis and regularly treated him there. Mr. Davis talked about the ladies of the Women's Christian Association who created and were active on various charity boards, and who started settlement houses to provide services for various poor neighborhoods.

Prior to tracing his American roots back to Virginia, Harry reminded everyone of how slaves were used like animals, treated like animals, and essentially considered to be animals. John Wesley Harper was a plantation owner in Roanoke, Virginia. He traded another owner for a beautiful young black girl, Frances Frazier. The son of the owner, John Harper Jr., took Frances to Ohio, a free state, where he married her and enlisted in the Union Army. They had 16 children, including Harry's grandmother. Harper was assigned to Fort Snelling following the civil war. Harry's grandmother then married a soldier here and bore 14 children, including Harry's mother. A black doctor at the Harper plantation taught the girls healing arts which were passed down and included the knowledge used by Harry's mother to treat his polio.

Harry then took us into the segregation in the area that sounded little different than the South. He told of hotels unwilling to accommodate even noted black entertainers. His initial interest in



“Service Above Self”



Your special events committee presents...

## Dinner Theatre

Centennial Showboat \*

Friday, February 24, 2006

6:00 p.m. - Doors open (cash bar)

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

8:00 p.m. - Show: The Rainmaker

Price: \$54.00/person

(Jim Kosmo and the Padelford Boat Company will donate \$5.00 from the cost of each ticket to the Saint Paul Rotary Foundation.)

### *Menu*

Mixed Green Salad with Caramelized Pears, Gorgonzola Cheese and Spiced Walnuts with Sherry Vinaigrette

Herb Crusted Tenderloin with Wild Mushroom Sauce

Grilled Chicken with Champagne & Dried Fruit Chutney Sauce

Creamy Rosemary Potato Galette

Seasonal Fire Roasted Vegetables

Fresh Rolls with Sweet Butter

Cookies and Bars

Coffee and Iced Tea

### The Rainmaker

A delightfully warm-hearted comedy set at the time of a paralyzing drought in the West “The Rainmaker” focuses on a girl whose father and brothers are worried as much about her becoming an old maid as they are about their dying cattle. Suddenly out of nowhere appears a tantalizing character with a hypnotic tongue and the most grandiose notions one could imagine. He claims to be a rainmaker and promises to bring rain for \$100. Forthwith they begin banging on big brass drums to rattle the sky; while the rainmaker turns his magic on the young maiden.

\* The Showboat is permanently docked at Harriet Island and does not move.

**Reservation deadline: February 17, 2006. Call 651 222-2028.**

### Thursday Fellowship Breakfast

7:30-8:15 a.m.

Boy Scout Office  
393 Marshall Avenue

February 2

Vocational Speaker



**Jim Hart, M.D.**

Physician/Medical Educator  
U of M School of Public Health

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boxing was caused by a need to defend himself. Especially chilling were his memories of the continual phone calls to him and to his wife calling him “nigger” and threatening death at the time he ran for mayor.

Mr. Davis closed by calling for us to pay attention to our children who are our tomorrow. “Unless we teach them well, tomorrow is lost, and I have to say, we’re not doing well.” We need to teach them so they can be good leaders.

Rotary members honored Mr. Davis with a standing ovation at the conclusion of his sharing.

President Marj then closed by thanking Harry and Lori and explaining that trees will be planted in their honor along the Mississippi river. President Marj then adjourned the meeting at 1:32.