

March 9, 2009

**This Week's Program**  
***Macedonia Literacy Project – John Reff***  
**Next Week's Program**  
***Colon Cancer Screening – Warren Larson***

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**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**“Discover the Magic” – District 5580 Conference**  
– Minot, ND - April 23-26, 2009

**Rotary International Convention –**  
**Birmingham, England - June 21-24, 2009**

**UPCOMING MAR/APR PROGRAMS**

Mar 23	TBD
Mar 30	Classification Talk
Apr 6	Hope House

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE FEBRUARY**

<b>Paul Carpenter</b>	<b>Myrle Olson</b>
<b>Duane Christensen</b>	<b>Karson Otness</b>
<b>Syd Corrigan</b>	<b>Wendy Otness</b>
<b>Joe Czapiewski</b>	<b>Lori Paris</b>
<b>Mark Dickinson</b>	<b>Dan Posner</b>
<b>Dennis Doeden</b>	<b>Gayle Quistgard</b>
<b>Harold Freutel</b>	<b>John Reff</b>
<b>Shelly Geerdes</b>	<b>Steve Rith-Najarian</b>
<b>Jim Ghostley</b>	<b>Ding Roholt</b>
<b>Jordan Hickman</b>	<b>Amy Saeland</b>
<b>Wayne Hoff</b>	<b>Mark Shough</b>
<b>Steven Hostetter</b>	<b>Nancy Smith</b>
<b>Gary Johnson</b>	<b>Alice Thompson</b>
<b>Chris Keenan</b>	<b>Joanne Torfin</b>
<b>Daryl Knoer</b>	<b>Scott Turn</b>
<b>Sue Kringen</b>	<b>Dennis Vorgert</b>
<b>Warren Larson</b>	<b>George Welte</b>
<b>Curt Lundquist</b>	<b>Ted Will</b>
<b>Evonne McKinzie</b>	<b>Kevin Williamson</b>
<b>Jill Naylor-Yarger</b>	<b>Larry Young</b>

**DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE**

A block of rooms has been reserved under Bemidji Noon Rotary for the 5580 District Conference. The reservations are for April 22 - April 26 so if you plan to attend, you need to reserve the dates you are interested in before April 8th. The phone number for the Holiday Inn Conference Center is 1-800-468-9968. If you need any further information, contact **Amy Saeland**.

**FUNCTIONAL LITERACY PROGRAM**

It has been estimated that a billion people – one-sixth of the world's population – are unable to read. Illiteracy among adults and children is a global concern in highly industrialized nations and in developing countries. The number of adult illiterates in the world is increasing by 25 million each year! In the United States, one quarter of the entire population is considered functionally illiterate.

The tragedy of illiteracy is that those who cannot read are denied personal independence and become victims of unscrupulous manipulation, poverty and the loss of human dignity that give meaning to life. Illiteracy is demeaning. It is a major obstacle for economic, political, social, and personal development. Illiteracy is a barrier to international understanding, cooperation and peace in the world.

Literacy education was considered a program priority by Rotary's original Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Committee in 1978. An early 3-H Grant led to the preparation of an excellent source book on the issues of literacy in the world. The Rotary-sponsored publication, *The Right to Read*, was edited by Rotarian Eve Malmquist, a past district governor from Linkoping, Sweden, and a recognized authority on reading and educational research. The book was the forerunner of a major Rotary program emphasis on literacy promotion.

In 1985 the RI board declared a ten-year emphasis on literacy education. In 1992 the board extended the emphasis until 2005. Many Rotary clubs are thoughtfully surveying the needs of their community for literacy training. Some clubs provide basic books for teaching, reading. Others establish and support reading and language clinics, provide volunteer tutorial assistance and purchase reading materials. Rotarians can play a vitally important part in their community and in developing countries by promoting projects to open opportunities that come from the ability to read.

“Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us. “

*Thomas Paine*