

The Bettendorf Rotary Club News

Sept 26th, 2007. *Guests Welcome at our next meeting
Wed., Oct. 3, Noon at the Fortune Garden*



FEATURING: The Quad City Home Builders Association

The Iowa Home Builders Association provides leadership for the building industry and promotes the American dream of home ownership. It represents 2,600 members across the State and works closely with each of 12 Local Associations, such as our QC Home Builders. The HBA's is a federation of local home builders associations that effectively supports the Iowa home building industry by:



- Supporting affiliated local home builders associations;
- Participating proactively in government affairs;
- Providing networking opportunities;
- Delivering valued services;
- Advancing new technology and trends;
- and,
- Promoting ethical business practices.

Wednesday's speaker will outline trends in housing market, and preview of upcoming QCHBA Harvest of Homes. The 2007 Fall Harvest of Homes takes place October 6, 7, 10, 13, 14. The homes will be open Saturdays & Sundays 12 noon to 5pm, Wednesdays 5pm-7pm. For further details, visit <http://www.qchba.com/> on the internet.

With mortgage defaults climbing and home sales falling, the plot line is becoming clear. Celebrated bond fund manager Jeffrey Gundlach, Chief Investment Officer of Santa Monica, Calif.-based TCW Group, says there are still several acts to come -- and that the curtain may not come down until the close of this decade. He sees U.S. home prices dropping an average of 12% to 15% annually from the highs achieved last year and not reaching their eventual trough until late 2008, at the earliest. And they may not start recovering until 2010 or 2011, inflicting, in the meantime, real damage on the economy.

About the only bright spot: the mortgage market may offer some excellent investment opportunities in the year ahead, he says. As the rest of the tragedy unfolds, the pain may be especially bad in what Gundlach calls "the bubble markets" of California, Florida, Nevada and Arizona and hard-hit Rust Belt areas in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Housing prices in those locales will likely fall 30% to 40%, he maintains.

(Housing trends excerpt above from a 10/1/07 Barron's article by Jonathan Lang.)

Announcements:



CHALLENGE: You become a new Quad City Symphony Season Ticket holder, Harry matches the ticket fee as a donation to our Bettendorf Rotary Club!

Member Harry Coin: “Both Rotary and the Quad City Symphony Orchestra mean a great deal to me. The QCSO not only performs orchestral music of the highest caliber, but it is also a cornerstone to our performing arts community. When you hear an orchestra in ballets, operas, and musicals, many of those musicians also play in our Orchestra. Small ensembles playing at community events, art galleries, and even weddings are often made up in part or entirely of QCSO members.

Many Orchestra members provide music education in QC area homes and classrooms. If our community did not support its Symphony Orchestra, we would soon find music lacking in many other areas of our lives.

This is an exciting year for the Orchestra, as we have narrowed the field to five finalists for a new Music Director. As an audition, each candidate will be conducting a concert this season, transforming every performance into a musical showcase. If you have ever considered attending a QCSO performance, this is the year to come!”

The 'best seats in the house' for the six Saturday evening 'Masterworks' series this upcoming season (starts Oct 6th) are \$200 at the Adler Theater (less for the Sunday afternoon series at Centennial Hall at Augustana). If Bettendorf Rotarians who have not been QCSO season ticket holders during the last two years purchase season tickets before Oct 11th Harry will match the total ticket fees in a Rotary donation (up to \$10K). Purchase your tickets through Jared at the QCSO, (563) 322-0931 x16. Jared will let Harry know how big a check he needs to write to our club!

***From Mr. Brian Kennedy,
program chairman--***



Upcoming Featured Speakers

- 10/10: Suggestions Welcome! See Brian.
- 10/17: Rotary District Governor Dianna Reed.
- 10/24: Doyle Monsma, Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease.
- 10/31: Sister Joan Lescinski, CSJ, PhD, incoming President, St. Ambrose University.
- 11/7: State Senator David Hartsuch.
- 12/12: Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey.

Please use this news!

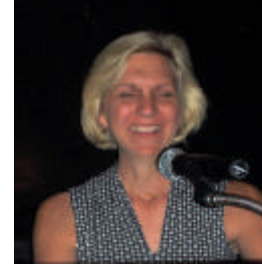
Invite prospective new members who might appreciate our speakers.

Only \$8 per visitor, payable at the door.



Meeting Review

Noon, Sept 26, 2007, the Fortune Garden.
 Presiding: **President Lisa Brown**



President Lisa Brown opened the meeting in a moment of silent reflection in support of our troops overseas and a sadly extensive roster of those many among our membership noted who suffer, and for world peace and fellowship. The members were cheered to see Lisa who herself is recovering from injuries after an auto mishap that was very nearly tragic. *(The Newsletter Office mailbag got a note from the Arbor Day society. The Arbor Day Society has donated their pamphlet ‘Why We Do Not Trim Trees With Automobiles at Speed’ and their instructional DVD ‘Trees Don’t Have Steering Wheels, So Use Yours’ to the Bettendorf Public Library in Lisa’s name!)*



Bernie Vogel offered R-O-T-A-R-Y and the ‘Song of the South’ as a piano instrumental during lunch. Later, with **Tom Howard** leading the Grand United Philharmonic Polyphonic Multi-Modal Nearly-in-Tune and Dangerously-Near-Unison-at-Least-Twice Master Choir in: “This is My Country” and later “Be a Friend”, “Shine on Harvest Moon” and, as an encore, “My Wild Irish Rose”.



Fred Anderson presented a most informative summary of the leading news, from international, to national, regional then local. He ended with a trademark news item from the ‘it must be true because nobody could make *that* up’ roster.

Sergeant-at-Arms Scott Tunnickliff collected \$76 for our foundations!



Ken Vandersnick announced that the final numbers for this year’s Annual Golf Outing are nearly done. Preliminary estimates are that we gained about \$3,500 for our club just in sponsorships, and 45 golfers participated. **President Lisa** warmly thanked the hard workers on the Golf Outing committee for their extensive labor on our club’s behalf.

Chuck “Fear springs from ignorance” Mooney, Secretary Reports:



- ❖ Visiting Rotarians:
Gene Hoth, North Scott, Security
- ❖ Jim Stein, Muscatine, Veterinarian
- ❖ Guests:
Kevin Thompson with A.J. Perisho

Rotary Meeting Make Ups: Fred Anderson at Iowa Quad Cities, Scott Voigt at Des Moines (twice!)

Missing today: Adams, Ball, Bowe, Calabrese, Callihan, Chambers, Clow, Daugherty, DeDoncker, Dobesh, Douglas, Downing, Eikenberry, Ellstrom, Gallagher, Habenicht, Hassel, Heninger, Hyder, Ingleby, James, Kennedy, Lucas, McWilliams, L..Miller, Naumann, Pelecky, Piart, Ploehn, Ross, Rossmiller, Selden, Sherrick, Snyder, Spyrow, St. Laurent, Voelliger, Voigt, Worley.

September 2007 Golf Outing Memories!

\$25,000 Rotary Scholarship Donors Rich and Dee James:

Thanks to photographer Carter Lebeau!



Make up a meeting at nearby Rotary Clubs:

- Monday, noon.....Davenport The Outing Club
- Monday, noon.....Moline-Calvary Church of the Quad Cities
- Monday, 6 pm.....QC Illinois-Moline Club
- Tuesday, 7:15 am..... River Cities-Brothers Rest. Rapid City
- Tuesday, noon.....Rock Island - QC Botanical Ctr.
- Wednesday, noon.....Bettendorf-Fortune Garden
- Wednesday, 5 pm.....Mini Meet-Lunardi's
- Thursday, 7 am.....IA Quad Cities-The Lodge
- Thursday, noon.....East Moline-Christ United Methodist Church
- Thursday, noon.....Milan-Milan Community Center
- Friday, noon.....North Scott-Steeplegate Inn



This week's featured speaker was introduced by President Lisa Brown:



Rotarian Mike Freemire, Mayor of Bettendorf

Liberally quoting great people in history, Mayor and Bettendorf Rotarian Mike Freemire presented a reflection on worrisome trends in modern leadership, citizenship and government.

Closing his talk in a reflection on virtue in a democracy, he identified virtue in those elected leaders who are able to create and share a vision

robust enough to tolerate variability in the details; and virtue in those citizens who actively and with care obtain and balance good information to decide whether and how much of what freedoms it is appropriate for the government to take balanced against what the government delivers to the citizenry in exchange. He particularly encouraged those who find themselves in disagreement to work harder to settle matters privately, only resorting to the force of government intervention after serious personal efforts.

Mayor Freemire lamented a preponderance of today's major media no longer appear to strive to make clear what parts of their products are objective reports of an event and what parts of their products attempt to persuade the reader to the writers point of view through analysis or opinion.

The Mayor worried about the prevalence of partisanship subordinating citizenship. For instance, that recent elected and institutional leaders are seen more often to err when they behave as though they are members of their political party first, and only second fellow citizens and neighbors. As an example he cited that while America is nearly entirely a two-party system, those institutions who proclaim their duty to report the news, not counting their specifically editorial space, but in their news space, give 70% of their product over to the doings of one party, and in featured eye-catching positions. This, while they give a disproportionately lower amount of poorer news reporting space to the other party.

He emphasized as a consequence, citizens must use the Internet and all available media to become confident of the true situation before formulating their course.