

Upcoming Speakers

July 2014

07/30 - Dr. Robert Davies, President, Murray State University

August 2014

08/13 - Intoxicated

Club Leaders

Jamie Futrell

President

John Williams, Jr.

President-Elect

Phyllis B. Russell

Secretary

Glen Anderson

Vice President

Thomas Scott Taylor

Treasurer

Chris McNeill

iPast President

Melanie McNeill

Membership Chair, Past President

Debbie DeWeese

Club Executive Secretary

Birthdays

Melanie W. McNeill

July 23

Dan Key

July 25

Don Barger

July 29

Scott Powell

July 30

Victor Sredl

July 31

Robyn Shapiro

August 01

Dwane Tucker

August 01

Christopher Sims

August 01

Cathy Creelius

August 04

Patrick Withrow

August 04

Brian J. Laczko

August 07

Dave Hoffman

August 09

Wayne M. Shelton

August 09

Steven A. Powless

August 11

John G Barker

August 12



GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

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4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Mary Wheeler Collection

July 23rd 2014



The guest speaker was **Nathan Lynn**, Special Collections Librarian in the Local and Family History Department at the McCracken County Public Library. A musician and historian, Mr. Lynn serves on the board of the Kentucky Oral History Commission. He gave an overview of the extensive collection of Mary Guthrie Wheeler (1892-1979) of Paducah. The library acquired the collection through a bequest from Miss Wheeler's niece, Bertha Wenzel. Mr. Lynn described the collection as "one of the last untouched collections of American folk music" and an important historical record of Paducah and the inland waterways.

The Mary Wheeler Collection is an original private collection of over 140 typed and handwritten folk songs, as well as scrapbooks, letters, manuscripts, thesis, photographs, and awards collected and saved by Miss Wheeler throughout her lifetime. Most of this collection

pertains to Miss Wheeler's life and her studies of the "Roustabouts," who worked on packet boats on the Ohio River and lived in Paducah and the Jackson Purchase during the late 19th and early 20th century. The Roustabouts were African-Americans who worked on the boats: loading, cooking, and cleaning. From the Civil War to around 1900, they created and sang songs as they worked. "They used the songs to lighten their load and make the day go somewhat easier," Mr. Lynn said. She completed a dissertation and two books on these songs. The McCracken County Public Library plans to have a digital collection of photographs and songs from the Mary Wheeler Collection available by the end of August at www.mclib.net.

Mr. Lynn described Miss Wheeler as "ahead of her time." She started collecting songs as a young teacher in the mountains of Kentucky. She served in World War I as a member of the Woman's Overseas League. In her academic and professional career, she lived in Paducah, Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., and other places. Yet, she always considered Paducah "home." One of her awards was being named an honorary member of the Mark Twain Society.

Mr. Lynn is in a band, the Wheelhouse Rousters, which recorded several of the songs in the Mary Guthrie Wheeler collection. The CD, recorded at the River Discovery Center, will be on sale soon at the center's gift shop.

Announcements

July 23rd, 2014

Rotarians are strongly urged to participate in the annual **Red Cross Blood Drive** on August 11th between noon and 6 pm in Iger Hall at the Broadway United Methodist Church. Friends, family and employees of Rotarians may also donate blood. You may schedule a time to participate using a sign up sheet available at each weekly meeting.



The Collings Foundation **Wings of Freedom Tour** is coming to Barkley Airport July 30, 31, and August 1. The tour consists of the 3 of the most famous planes of WWII ... a B-17 Bomber, a B-24 Liberator, and a P-51 Mustang, which will be available for



tours and even flights. Admission is \$12 for adults, kids 12 and under \$6, and WWII Veterans can tour for free. Flights are 30 minutes each and the costs are \$450 for the two bombers, and \$2200 for the P-51 Mustang which includes 'stick time' where you can fly the plane as it is the only full dual-cockpit P-51 still flying.

The majority of the cost of the flights is tax deductible. The planes will be available to tour from 2p-5p Wed. July 30, 9a-5p Thursday July 31, and 9a-12p on Friday Aug. Anyone wanting to book a flight in advance is asked to call 800-568-8924.

Rotary Foundation Status:

Every Rotarian Every Year - 98% of Club

Paul Harris Fellows - 79 members, 45% of Club

Paul Harris Society - 39 members, 22% of Club

Guests

July 23rd, 2014

Kempton Baldrige - Victoria Caldwell

Cindy Ragland - Josh White

Josh Coffey - Laura Duff

Jack Johnston - Bob Johnston

Lauren Rouse, Emily Erwin, Summer Davis - Mike Muscarella

Amy French - Becky Straley