

Upcoming Speakers

6/28 - **PRESIDENT'S DAY** and PHF Recognitions

7/5 - U.S. Senator **Mitch McConnell**, Senate Majority Leader

7/12 - **District Governor Induction - Missy Eckenberg**, Community Scholarship Program Annual Report

Club Leaders



Glen Anderson
President



Melanie W. McNeill
President-Elect



Shawn Turner
Secretary



Thomas Scott Taylor
Treasurer

Mardie R. Herndon
Rotary Foundation Chair

Don Barger
Sergeant-at-Arms



John A Williams Jr.
iPast President

Denise A Chapman
Club Executive Secretary

Board of Directors Currently Serving

Barry Smith

Bruce Akin

Clay Howerton

David Hutcheson

Dee Dee Whittaker

Don Barger

Frank Bennett

John Williams, Jr.

Lewis Carr

Maurie McGarvey

Melanie McNeill

Randy Bridges

Scott Taylor

Shawn Turner

Susan Carr

Terry Reeves

Birthdays

Ashley Grooms

June 24

Debbie Wattier

June 25

Richard R. Veazey

June 29

Wes H Kramer

July 01

J. Lee Powell

July 04

GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah



June 21, 2017 Issue 78, Number 48

Website: www.paducahrotary.org **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofpaducah

GearTeeth is published weekly except New Year's, Easter, Quilt Week, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Gifts of Health Returned to Homeland

Jun 21, 2017

Speaker: Dr. Shiraz Patel, Orthopaedic Surgeon, The Orthopaedic Institute Dr. Patel was introduced by Rotarian Lewis Carr.



Topic: The Gram Seva Foundation, founded by Dr. Patel's mother, the late Dr. Roda Patel.

Top Ten Takeaways for Rotarians:

-In 1994, at the age of 60, Pediatrician, Fulbright Scholar, and Artist Dr. Roda Patel founded the Gram Seva Foundation to treat sick and malnourished children in rural India. Dr. Roda Patel died in 2011. The words Gram Seva translate to "Village Service." Although she and her family were residents of the United States, she returned to her homeland to establish the treatment facilities. She would practice ten months of the year in the US and return to India each year for at least two

months to coordinate and assist in the foundation's work.

-In his speech, Dr. (Shiraz) Patel gave an overview of India. The country has a population of 1.2 billion people in a geographic footprint one third the size of the US. Although the world typically identifies Bombay as representative of India, 72% of the population lives in rural villages.

- "Four children die each minute," Dr. Patel said, citing diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria, typhoid and tuberculosis as the primary causes. Malnutrition is the cause of the majority of infant deaths, or, the residual effects of malnutrition such as blindness, deafness, or mental retardation.

-The Kharel, India facility now serves as the home base for the Gram Seva Foundation. It is located three hours east of Mumbai and serves clients who come from any of 120 surrounding villages in a 60-mile area. The region has a population of 300,000 people. Since its inception in 1994, the Foundation has raised \$1.8 million and saved 11,000 children from permanent effects of malnutrition and "created hope for rural India."

-Dr. Patel said the Foundation has focused on what seem to be the major social issues of rural India: the condition of migrant workers, who are often the poorest of the poor; the health and development of teenaged girls; and overall malnutrition.

-Examples of its efforts, as explained by Dr. Patel, include providing each child a specially developed high protein bar each day to assist in malnutrition; providing an iron supplement each week; providing deworming medicine for hook worm; monthly medical checkups and growth charting; and preschool education. He added that under the Foundation's direction, those services can be offered for the sum of three dollars (\$3) per child, per month. As a measure of the program's success rate, Dr. Patel said prior to 1994 91% of children age 0-5 years old were malnourished. As of now, 90% of that same age group charted are normal, or "mildly" malnourished.

-Addressing what was usually a "dismal" outlook for teenaged girls in rural India, his mother's solution to address the problem was to provide education and marriage counseling, tutors in the villages, and vocational education. Her goal was to provide these young women with skills, financial empowerment, and financial independence.

-Dr. Patel said the hospital now has 50 patient beds offering free health services. The

Barbara Veazey
July 05
Hal N. Sullivan
July 06
Dia Mitchell Canter
July 07
Jamey R. Brown
July 08
David Morse
July 08
William E. Pinkston
July 10
Walter C. Howerton
July 11
Kenneth A Wheeler
July 11
John A. Williams Sr.
July 14
Glen Anderson
July 14
Emerson Goodwin
July 17
Gloria Meriwether
July 19
William Robert Johnston
July 20
Jeff Pederson
July 21
Brandon Barnhill
July 22
Melanie W. McNeill
July 23

hospital averages 70,000 outpatient visits per year; 7,000 inpatient admissions per year; and, 2,000 child deliveries. The hospital provides emergency and surgical services to victims, plus, feeds and boards immediate family caregivers who must accompany the patients. In addition, the hospital instituted a dialysis program in 2013; cataract surgeries; a children's Intensive Care Unit; and snake bite treatment (treating as many as four potentially fatal snake bites per month).

-Dr. Roda Patel's last Foundation project that she initiated was a children's shelter which, Dr. (Shiraz) Patel described as "closest to her heart." The shelter first opened in 2008 serving 50 homeless children, and last year opened a new facility using energy efficiency as one way to serve even more children.

-For more information on the Gram Seva Foundation, visit www.gramseva.org.

Announcements

Jun 21, 2017



- "In recognition of Outstanding Dedication & Service...", so says the plaque given to the Rotary Club of Paducah's Rotarian of the Year. The honor was bestowed upon Rotarian John A. Williams, Jr. at Wednesday's meeting. Under Rotarian John's leadership in 2015-2016, the club executed and completed construction on a \$200,000 community playground project. In addition to the playground, Williams has served the Rotary club and other community endeavors for many years. On behalf of the entire club, "Thank You" Rotarian John and congratulations!

-Rotarian John A. Williams, Jr., was called to the stage again Wednesday. President Glen presented Williams a certificate for "Best Community Service Project", which was awarded the Rotary Club of Paducah for the Paducah Rotary Playground Project. The award represents the best project completed by a club within Rotary's Division IV, which encompasses District 6710 and others. On behalf of the entire club, thank you John for your leadership, and thanks to all Club members and volunteers from around the region for helping this project become a reality. The Playground in Paducah was officially opened to the public June 26, 2016.

-President Glen expressed his appreciation to Zach Hosman and all the club members and their guests who attended "Rotary Night at the Paducah Chiefs" baseball game. Despite a tough loss in an exciting game for the Chiefs, our group enjoyed a fun-filled night of gorgeous weather and good fellowship. #gochiefs #goRotary!

-The newly formed Marketing Committee is still in need of writers. If you would like to contribute your writing talents to the club in the form of writing press releases and occasionally filling-in as the Gearteeth reporter, contact Rotarian Terry Reeves.

-Please make a special effort to attend the club's annual President's Day program next Wednesday, July 28. The past year's highlights under President Glen Anderson will be recapped, Paul Harris fellows will be recognized, and the President's gavel will be passed to incoming President Melanie McNeill.

Guests

Jun 21, 2017

Rotary PDG Jayne Crisp – guest of Missy Eckenberg
Allen Paul – guest of Chuck Hank
Faith Mackin, Raquel Ziegler, Riley Stuzebeher, Wesley Walden – guests of Mike Muscarella
Saundria Sims – guest of Terrance Adams
Jack Russell – guest of Glen Anderson
Rotarians Steve Fisk and Nathan Arant – guests of Bruce Akin
Melanie Patel, Dr. Khushroo Patel and Richard Bacon – guests of the Club