## **SPARKS**



Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 21, 2012 Guest Speaker: *Rabbi Chester 'Chet' B. Diamond Rabbi Emeritus - The Temple* Topic: *"Partners With a Vision: Kiwanis & Rotary"* Introduction by Ken Grossman Buffet Opens: 11:30 am / Meeting Begins: 12:15 pm

Galt House East - Second Floor, Grand Ballroom 'A'





Rabbi Chet Diamond has been Rabbi of The Temple since 1963. He graduated from Brooklyn College in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission in the U.S. Air Force. He has served on the executive boards of many communal organizations, including Jewish Hospital, the Boy Scouts of America--Old Kentucky Home Council, National Conference of Christians and Jews--Louisville Chapter, Council on Peacemaking, Senior House, and the Louisville Free Public Library Foundation.

Chet was the first Rabbi to serve on the Board of the Office of Ecumenism of the Louisville Archdiocese. In 1999 he was recognized by Interfaith Paths to Peace for his work in promoting interfaith understanding, and in 2001 was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Cathedral Heritage Foundation. He has been an adjunct

Professor of Religion at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, is a graduate of Leadership Louisville Class of 1985 and, for almost 45 years, he has been a member of the Louisville Rotary Club. In 2001, upon his becoming Rabbi Emeritus of The Temple, Rabbi Diamond was recognized by Governor Paul E. Patton of the Commonwealth of Kentucky with a special award for his many years of leadership to his congregation and the community.

Using the vehicle of the parable, Rabbi Diamond will probe the nature of Thanksgiving. The parable is not Biblical nor is it anything you have heard before. It may have had its origin in a native American setting, but what is most significant is that at its root it provides a way of rediscovering the essence of the holiday that has come to mean so much to us. Rabbi Diamond calls his presentation, "Partners With a Vision" for, in addition to the Thanksgiving theme, his message links the role of Kiwanis and Rotary.





## **Rotary Meeting - November 15, 2012**

President Alexander called our meeting to order at the Kosair Shrine Club. Lora Tucker gave our invocation, followed by Raj Manwani leading us in the pledge and our song, with the assistance of Charlie Castner on piano. Joe Ferguson hosted our birthday table which included four celebrants.

George Brakmeier addressed the meeting and said that there were a few open slots for bell ringers this holiday season. Please contact George at 552-2002. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered. Greg Braun spoke about the new brochure developed to give to potential new members. It briefly describes who we are, some of the projects and, most importantly, the "What is Rotary?" meetings for prospective members held every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the Rotary offices.

Maynard Stetten reported on the recently held District Conference. President Stuart Alexander made a presentation at the conference on our Rotary Promise Scholarship

program as well as our Water Project. Stet mentioned that our club won five awards, including the Changemaker Award, Presidential Citation, Best Community Service Project Award (for our Rotary Promise Scholarship project), Most Increase in Membership and Best Club Newsletter.

Gail Becker introduced our guest speaker, Scott Brusaw, CEO of Solar Roadways. Not sure whose "bright idea" it was to invite Scott to speak, but it was a good one. Scott admits that his whole idea for solar roadways began when he was a kid, and his favorite toy was a slot car running along an electric groove. It has now developed into a concept that has the Federal Highway Administration interested. Scott's concept is a modular roadway made out of glass that allows for solar cells to collect energy, includes LEDs to "paint" the road lines from beneath the surface and communicate with words of caution or direction to drivers, a heating element to prevent snow and ice accumulations and phone signal cable that would eliminate any dead zones. The solar energy collected from roadways and parking lots could power all electric cars, and provide power for our cities and businesses, potentially eliminating or vastly reducing the need for fossil fuels. Added environmental benefits include eliminating the need to build roads from petroleum based products like asphalt, which can leach into our ecosystems. Mr. Brusaw estimates that these modular roadways would have a useful life of 25 years, and at that time it could be completely recycled into new modules.

Solar Roadways is nearly complete on a parking lot funded by a \$750,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration. This will not only go a long way to demonstrate all of the technologies of a solar roadway, but also provide much needed cost information that is yet to be determined. The future is indeed "bright" for Solar Roadway; stay tuned for more "enlightening" developments. Their website is <u>www.solarroadways.com</u>.

I have not been a member of Rotary as long as most of our members, but I have never heard a Guest Speaker present an idea that is more thought provoking, out of the box and world-changing as we heard on this day. The numbers of members who approached Scott Brusaw and touched his prototype glass products show that other members at our meeting were also impressed.

- Jerry Gerichs





President Stuart E. Alexander, III

