

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa
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This Week, November 29 Stillman Choir Offers Sounds of the Season



The Stillman College Choir will visit the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa this week, bringing their talents and their famous performances of the songs of the Christmas season.

The Choir boasts a touring group of some thirty singers. Its repertoire ranges across a wide variety of periods and styles, from the traditional European choral music of the last four centuries to traditional spirituals and contemporary gospel music.

Among the Choir's most notable recent performances have been Haydn's "Third Mass" (Lord Nelson) with the Johnson Symphony Orchestra; a performance of Mozart's "Requiem" with the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra (featured on National Public Radio) and performances at Tuscaloosa's Annual Realizing the Dream Concert in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Most recently, the choir performed "God Bless America" and other faith-inspired songs at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheater during the community ceremony to remember September 11, 2001, and "God Bless America" at the inauguration of Alabama's 53rd Governor, Dr. Robert Bentley.

Phillip Todd Westgate, director of choral activities and a member of the Stillman faculty since 1992, directs the choir. Dr. Westgate, an associate professor of Music, is a native of Manhattan, Kansas. Ms. Layrne Williford serves as the accompanist for the Choir.

Last Week: November 29

Big and Littles Making a Big Difference



Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America is one of the premier community service organizations in the country. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the agency seeks to partner at-risk children (“Littles”) with motivated mentors (“Bigs”). Locally, BBBS is headed by Nikki Richardson, who visited the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa last Tuesday. **Rotarian David Richardson**, Nikki’s husband, introduced the speaker.

The mission of her team, Richardson said, is straightforward and ambitious: to help each child achieve educational success, and to build on that foundation for success in life. Those goals are achieved through strict accountability, both in the classroom and beyond. Each child’s attendance in school is tracked, for example, along with GPA. Each child is also held accountable for developing their aspirations, their confidence and healthy relationships, as well as for avoiding risky circumstances and environments.

The challenge is real given the harsh reality for most Littles: Some 85% come from single parent homes, and 95% live below the poverty line. Moreover, because of the incarceration of either one or both of their parents, some 10% live with an aunt or uncle, often moving multiple times during the school year.

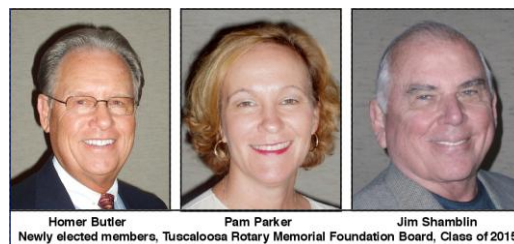
Richardson and her staff are thus hard at work on many fronts: getting to know families, crafting detailed plans for each child and mentor in their staff meetings, and tracking the results of their efforts. They try always to balance growth with the quality of their service, hoping to reach as many children as possible without overextending themselves.

The task is more difficult of late, of course, given the current economy and the devastating budget cuts for social services in recent years. Richardson said she and her colleagues faced an over 50% loss of their total budget in 2011-12. But through diligence, leadership and the generosity of the community, she is glad to report that BBBS is operating with a balanced budget and full staff in 2011.



Club Nominating Committee Looks ahead to 2012-13

On Tuesday November 29 the Nominating Committee of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa (Bruce Henderson, Buddy Moman, James Leitner, Jordan Plaster, Patricia Parnell, Lowell Davis, and Jim Shamblin, Chair), again presented the following slate of nominees for the coming year: **President:** James Leitner; **President-Elect:** Pat Conner; **Secretary:** Nancy Jones; **Treasurer:** Joe May; **Club Board:** Jimmy Mixson, Mark Heinrich, Clark Swail, Lowell Davis, Mitchell Loper, Ryan Stallings; **TMRF Board:** Homer Butler, Pam Parker, Jim Shamblin.



President Warner accepted a motion to elect the slate by acclamation, and with a second to the motion the nominees were approved. Committee Chair and Past President Jim Shamblin thanked the committee for its hard work, and noted how many excellent nominees there were for each position.



Rotaract Club of Tuscaloosa Announces Second Annual Reindeer Rendezvous!



On **Thursday December 8 from 8-11pm** at Innissfree in Tuscaloosa, the Rotaract Club will host its Second Annual "Reindeer Rendezvous." Come in your best festive Christmas attire and join Rotaract for Free appetizers and a live band. Guests are also encouraged to bring a canned food item or \$5 for the West Alabama Food Bank. See you there!



November Birthdays!

Sammy Watson (11/1), Tom Meriwether (11/4), Lewis Carnes (11/6), Pam Parker (11/6), Fran Reilly (11/6), Karen Baldwin (11/8), Kyle Faught (11/9), Nancy Williams (11/9), Walter Grant (11/13), Bryan Chandler (11/16), Ed Parker (11/20), Gary Fitts (11/21), Charles Nash (11/24), Pete Nasir (11/24), Elizabeth Obradovich (11/24), John Shamblin (11/25), Diane Salls (11/29).



Guests, November 29

Guests of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa last week included **Don Salls** (retired), guest of Diane Salls; **Russ Nevin** (Engineer), guest of Butch Grimes; and **Orman Wilson** (CPA), guest of Stacy Kirkland.



At the Head Table, November 29

Rotarian Becky York moved to Tuscaloosa a year and a half ago. She is from Greensboro and a graduate of Judson college. She is retired from Alabama Power and currently serves our Club as Sergeant at Arms. She invites everyone to come see her home decorated for the holidays in Weatherford. **Rotarian Ryan Stallings**, a Montgomery native, has lived in Tuscaloosa for 10 years, and joined Rotary in 2008. He graduated from the University of Alabama with a Degree in Business Management and a minor in Computer Science. He is a Commercial Loan Officer with First South Farm Credit. He has been with First South for six years. He is currently a District Chairman with Ducks Unlimited Inc., is responsible for the oversight of three Ducks Unlimited Chapters, and serves as treasurer of the Tuscaloosa Ducks Unlimited Chapter. He is currently the Chairman of the Rotaract Committee. **Rotarian David Richardson** is a native of Tuscaloosa and attended the University of Alabama. He is an Accountant with Steve Richardson & Company, CPA's, and focuses on Small Business Tax Work and Planning. He is also the owner of a Two Men & A Truck franchise in Pensacola. He is married to Nikki Richardson and they have two children, Libba (3) and Hartley (5), with another on the way. David is a member of Calvary Baptist Church, a volunteer with the United Way of West Alabama, and serves as Treasurer of Child Abuse Prevention Services.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 13

**Tuscaloosa
Symphony
Orchestra**

December 20

**Tim Leopard
Construction at
U of A**

December 27

No Meeting

“If there is any one particular in which I would have Rotary distinguished from other organizations, it is in the quality of character which results in the doing of things.”

— Paul Harris

ABSENT? MAKING UP ATTENDANCE IS EASY...

- Visit with the Morning Rotary Club every Thursday at 7 AM at Indian Hills Country Club.
- Attend another club’s meeting within two weeks before or after an absence.
- Participate in a Rotary event, such as a committee meeting, social function, Interact event, etc.
- Make up at E-club online: www.rotaryclubone.org.

REPORT ALL MAKEUPS TO CLUB SECRETARY NANCY JONES AT
nancysjones@bellsouth.net