

# The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa  
P.O. Box 2403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 — [www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com](http://www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com)  
Volume 94 — Issue 41 — April 17, 2012

## Club Officers, 2011-12

Warner Johnson  
*President*

James Leitner  
*President-Elect*

Nancy Jones  
*Secretary*

Laura Aaron  
*Treasurer*

Frank Deaver  
*Executive Director*

Becky York  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

## Directors, 2010-11

Clark Swail  
*Membership*

Lee Henderson  
*Programs*

Jimmy Mixson  
*Communications*

Glenda Guyton  
*Vocational*

Chuck Turner  
*Community Service*

Mark Heinrich  
*International*

Ralph Clements  
*Foundation*

Jim Shamblin  
*Past President*

Jerry Shepherd  
*Assistant District Governor*

## This Week, April 17 District Governor Martin Uptain



Rotary's District governors are charged with coordinating the efforts of Rotary International with its thousands of clubs and millions of Rotarians at the local level. To that end they are also charged with making annual "official visits" to each club.

The purpose of each visit is to emphasize the goals of both Rotary International and the district, and to communicate regarding issues and programs of importance to our membership. For district 6860 in 2011-2012, these tasks have fallen to **Martin Uptain**, who will make his "official visit" to the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa this week.

Among District Governor Uptain's goals are that each club will be 100% participants in "Every Rotarian Every Year" and "Future Vision" programs of Rotary International, that every club will aggressively grow its membership, and that each Rotarian will participate more vigorously in the many activities of their club and District.

Uptain joined Rotary in 1996 as a member of the Rotary Club of Gardendale. He is a past club president, and has served as an assistant governor and district secretary. He is a Paul Harris Society member, a Paul Harris fellow and a sustaining member of the Foundation. He also served on the District Assembly committee. During the last two years, he was a member of the PETS executive steering committee.

## Last Week, April 10

# Dr. John Fisher, Alabama Poison Center

From plants and animals to pesticides and even seemingly innocent household products, our world is filled with harmful, even deadly poisons. Last week, Rotarians learned a bit more about the importance of educating ourselves about poisoning and its treatment. Dr. John Fisher, Director of the Alabama Poison Center, spoke to the Club. **Rotarian Mark Heinrich** introduced the speaker.

The Alabama Poison Center is a telephone information resource for both the public and health care professionals throughout Alabama. Staffed by qualified nurse specialists trained in toxicology, its members provide support for specialists in treating poison related illness.

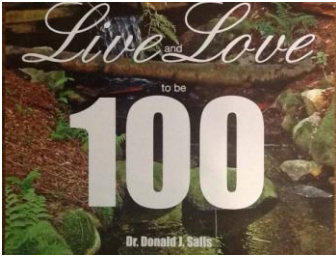
The Center takes a remarkable 40,000 calls a year, an average of some 800 a day. Most dangerous in his experience, said Fisher, are what he called the “Demon Under the Kitchen Sink” (the toxic mix of cleaners and household chemicals often found there) and common pesticides, which are too often stored in innocent drinking containers, leading to accidental poisoning.

Other odd categories of poison treatment that the Center has confronted include debris from accidents (including the space shuttle crash of 2002), as well as potential flu pandemics radioactive poisoning, and the dangers of chemical or biological terrorist attacks.

Also dangerous of late is the rash of “poisonings” through overdose on pain killers—the death rate of which is now on par with auto accidents—as well as other unregulated drugs like synthetic cabbanoids bath salts, which Fisher described as “a life threatening drug that will kill you in a matter of weeks.” A big part of the battle is education and awareness, said Fisher, and the poison control center is doing all it can. “Kids need to know not to fool with this stuff.”

For more information, visit [www.alapoisoncenter.org](http://www.alapoisoncenter.org).





## **“Live and Love to Be 100” 2013 Calendar to Benefit Caring Days Now on Sale!**

Live and love to be 100! Who wouldn't want to do that? And now Rotarian **Diane Salls** has an opportunity to celebrate of that lofty ideal, with a 2013 calendar. The \$20 calendar features original photography by Diane and monthly inspirational messages by her husband Don. Most importantly, **10% of every purchase goes to Caring Days of Tuscaloosa**. For more information, and to purchase a calendar, contact Diane today at 205-248-6104.



## **Morning Club Announces Fundraiser**

Rotirian Millie Jackson of the Morning Club announced to Tuscaloosa Rotary their upcoming fundraiser, “Wine Down With Rotary.” The event will be held on May 19 from 7-9 p.m. at the Harrison Gallery downtown. Fine wines and matching foods will be served. Tickets are \$ 50, with all proceeds going to charity. Contact the Morning Club for more information.



## **Guests, April 10**

Guests at the April 10 meeting of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa included **Jeremy Jones**, guest of Bob Almon, and **Rotarians Carol Wright, Ashley Coplin, Millie Jackson** and **Justin Brasfield** of the Morning Club.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

---

April 24

Mayor Walt Maddox

---

May 1

State School Superintendent Thomas Bice

---

May 8

TBA

---

May 15

Susan West, Tuscaloosa Tourism

---

May 22

Brigadier General Allen Harrell

---

“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



## At the Head Table, April 10

**Loy Singleton** is Dean of the College of Communication & Information Sciences at the University of Alabama. The College includes 2900 students and 72 faculty in five academic departments and the professional production facilities of WVUA-TV, the Center for Public Television and Alabama Public Radio. He serves on the boards of the Tuscaloosa Arts Council and the Alabama Broadcasters Association. His wife Sandy recently retired after 17 years as the librarian at Verner Elementary School. Their two daughters and granddaughter live in Tuscaloosa. **Rotarian Mark Heinrich**, a native of Wisconsin, played tennis at Tennessee Tech and was longtime coach of the women's tennis team. With 35 years of experience in Higher Education, he is in his fifth year as President of Shelton State. He currently serves on the Club Board as Director of International Programs. **Vance Rose** is CEO of Swimkids, Inc., Alabama's largest provider of swimming lessons. He has served for 21 years as a swimming coach at Alabama, and is married to Dr. Karen Rose. They have one son, Trey (14). **Rotarian Debbie Besant** came to Tuscaloosa to attend the University of Alabama, married a local, Chris, and remained to call Tuscaloosa home. She is a CPA with a degree in Accounting from UA. She began with Way, Ray, Shelton and soon became Finance Manager at Northport Medical Center, where she worked for 16 years. She is now with Southland Benefit Solutions since 2009.