

# 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 95 — Issue 1 — July 3, 2012

## Officers, 2012-13

James Leitner  
*President*

Karen Baldwin  
*President-Elect*

Nancy Jones  
*Secretary*

Joe May  
*Treasurer*

Frank Deaver  
*Executive Director*

Bruce Burrows  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

## Directors, 2012-13

Clark Swail  
*Membership*

Lowell Davis  
*Programs*

Ryan Stallings  
*Communications*

Mitchell Loper  
*Vocational*

Chuck Turner  
*Community Service*

Margaret King  
*International*

J. G. Brazil  
*Foundation*

Warner Johnson  
*Past President*

Jerry Shepherd  
*Assistant District Governor*

## This Week, July 3 A July 4th Family Barbeque and Special Guest, Thomas Melvill

This week Rotarians will celebrate Independence Day with a barbeque-style meal, with family and friends all invited! Kids and other family eat free, and all will welcome a very special guest. **Thomas Melvill**, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, will speak to the club about life in the time of the American Revolution.

Melvill was born in England but his family settled in Massachusetts when he was a child. An early supporter of American liberty, he was close friends with Samuel Adams and Paul Revere. He was a founding member of the Sons of Liberty and was rumored to be the patriot who conceived of the idea that led to the Boston Tea Party.

His family long displayed a small glass vial containing the tea leaves that were removed from his shoes when he returned home that night in December, 1773. One of those descendants was his grandson Herman Melville, the author of Moby Dick.

An officer in the American Revolution, Major Melvill served with Paul Revere in the artillery and was a company commander. He was appointed by President George Washington to be Inspector of the Port of Boston, and was reappointed by Presidents Adams, Jefferson and Madison.

Until the end of his life Major Melvill was known for continuing to dress in the fashion of the Revolutionary war (knee breeches and a tri-cornered hat) long after the style had fallen out of fashion.

## Last Week, June 26 New Leadership Sworn in for 2012-13

The past and future of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa met in grand fashion last week, as Rotarians marked the end and the beginning of another Rotary year. Outgoing President Warner Johnson thanked his board members, presenting each with kind words and plaques celebrating their service. He then led incoming President James Leitner in the oath of office, and officially handed over the gavel. President Leitner also presented Warner with golden gavel of his own to mark his year, and thanked all for their hard work.

President Leitner then introduced the members of his incoming officers and directors and led them in their oath of office. Incoming officers include **Karen Baldwin**, President Elect; **Nancy Jones**, Secretary; **Joe May**, Treasurer and **Bruce Burrows**, Sergeant At Arms; and on the Board of Directors: **Lowell Davis**, Programs; **Clark Swail**, Membership; **Ryan Stallings**, Communications; **Mitchell Loper**, Vocational; **Chuck Turner**, Community Service; International, **Margaret King**; and **J.G. Brazil**, Rotary Foundation. The Club also recognizes the ongoing service of **Jerry Shepherd**, who continues to serve as Assistant District Governor, as well as the Rotarians charged with guiding the Tuscaloosa Rotary Memorial Foundation.

The meeting concluded with President Leitner offering a few remarks on his vision for the coming year. His plan centers on three core areas of focus. First will be what he called “Back to Basics,” and agenda which will focus on sustaining membership and attendance, and submitting reports in a timely manner. Other basics focus on the Rotary Foundation, including a goal of having at least three new Paul Harris Fellows each year. President Leitner also emphasized his goal of instituting a sustained service project, one that will involve club members in work and service in the community beyond simply writing a check. A second area of focus will center on Strategic Planning, and will include investment in a year-long consulting process that will result in a well-thought out long-term vision for the club. Finally, President Leitner stressed that he will want the club to have fun. He hopes to have a significant event for club fellowship at least once a quarter, and of course a series of excellent programs at each weekly meeting.



# Respect – The Prelude To Peace

By Frank Deaver

“Peace Through Service” is the Rotary theme for this year, chosen by RI President Sakuji Tanaka. But how may we define peace? It is far more than the absence of war. Intense fighting can go on for months or years without a declared state of war. On the other hand, a state of war can exist indefinitely with no actual combat.

Peace, reduced to a single word, is respect. Respect for the humanity of all people. Respect for property and possessions. Respect for beliefs contrary to our own. Respect that leads to Service. Peace Through Service.

Martin Luther King compared modern society to a great world house, in which, he said, we have no alternative but to live together – black and white, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Moslem and Hindu. "Because we can never again live apart," he said, "we must learn somehow to live with each other in peace."

Rotary District 2450 is perhaps the most multi-cultural district in the Rotary world, with clubs in eight countries and on three continents. Their "world house" of 139 clubs includes diversity of geography, ethnicity, language, and religion. Yet, District Governor (2005-06) John C. Strongylos said their 4000 Rotarians live and work and serve together by "adhering to the principles of Rotary." He said this includes "mutual respect, tolerance, and consideration."

There is that word again – respect. If Rotarians in the Middle East can rise above the conflicts that surround them, why cannot the rest of society learn to live together in mutual respect and peace? Why does our world find it so difficult to embrace that elusive commodity, respect?

Lack of respect, or hatred, is passed along from generation to generation. Children are not born to hate; they learn to hate. In the words of a song from the musical, South Pacific:

"You've got to be taught before it's too late,  
Before you are six or seven or eight,  
To hate all the people your relatives hate.  
You've got to be carefully taught."

If in fact hatred is an attitude that is taught, then surely its counterpart lies in the teaching of respect. The Fourth Object of Rotary calls for "the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace." If there is to be Peace Through Service, what must be carefully taught is – here is that word again – respect.



## **Vicki Kerr and Caring Days Send a Note of Thanks**

June 26, 2012

Dear Rotarians,

Saying "thank you" just seems so inadequate for all you have done for Caring Days and for me. As I watch the new Mal and Charlotte Moore Center going up, I know how important the contributions have been from each individual, organization, and business. I am so proud to have the support of our amazing community and especially Rotary. You stepped up from the beginning of the project and gave us the faith that we could achieve our goal.

The new building is going up rapidly now. Hopefully they will be able to keep their scheduled completion date and we can move sometime in September. I look forward to having all of you visit the new facility. Together we have been able to accomplish great things for West Alabama.

Thank you again for everything.

Vicki Kerr  
Sometimes called "the Rotary Rose"



## At the Head Table, June 26

**Rotarian Jim Shamblin** retired as a board certified general surgeon specializing in Obesity Surgery. A Rotarian since 1965, he served as president of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa twice (1972-73, 2010-11) and Governor of District 6190 in Louisiana (1991-92). He has attended fourteen International Conventions. Jim is a recipient of RI's Service Above Self Award and TRF Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Benefactor of the Permanent Fund and TRF Level III Major Donor. He married his college sweetheart, Betty, five years ago. Between them, they have seven children, seventeen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He served as one of seventeen Directors of Rotary International for 2001-2003, and was RI Vice-President in 2002-2003. He is beginning his second term as president of TRMF. **Rotarian Frank Deaver** has been a member of Rotary (with perfect attendance) for over 42 years, and has held various club and district offices. Beyond club and district service, he has attended Rotary meetings in 32 countries (and spoke for many). A retired Professor of Journalism at UA, he has also published some 60 Rotary essays online, many of which are still being re-published (see [www.rghf.org/essays/index.htm](http://www.rghf.org/essays/index.htm)). **Rotarian Jim McLean** is a University Professor and Dean of the College of Education at The University of Alabama. He joined Rotary in early 2005 and has served on several committees, such as the International Scholarship Committee. He currently chairs the Rotary Adopt-a-School Committee. Jim is also a Paul Harris Fellow. He has been married to Sharon for over 40 years and they have two grown children. **Rotarian Rufus Lewis** retired from Social Security with over 40 years of service. He is married to Lois LaFollette Lewis and they are parents of three grown children. Both Lois and Rufus are Paul Harris fellows. Rufus and Lois are active members of Canterbury Episcopal Chapel and Student Center. Rufus serves on the Salvation Army Advisory Board and on the Kentuck Board.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

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**July 10**

**Dr. James  
Robinson, UA  
Football Physician**

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**July 17**

**Dr. Earnest  
McNeely, Stillman  
College**

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**July 24**

**Judge Hardy  
McCullom,  
Tuscaloosa County  
Probate Court**

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“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

**Rotarian James Leitner** joined Rotary in 2006, served as treasurer for four years, chaired the Tornado Relief committee, is a multiple Paul Harris fellow and is now President. He has served on the board of Easter Seals Alabama for the last five years and is currently their treasurer. James is in the insurance business and is President and CEO of Southland National Insurance Corporation and CEO of Southland Benefit Solutions and of Health Partners America. He is married to the former Allison Leigh Flemming and they have three children ranging in ages from 2 to 20.