



ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | February 25, 2026 | Service above self. One profits most who serves best.

Today's program



Gabe Sweitzer's guest today is **Lynn Bagby** of Adrian speaking about the work of KSDS Assistance Dogs.

Future programs

- March 4 - Sam Styron
- March 11 - Jayden Love's guest will be Supt. Josh Chastain
- March 18 - Nichole Tews
- March 25 - Lori Watson
- April 1 - Chuck Weedman
- April 8 - Anne Hickman

Birthdays

March 23Vanessa Hargrave

Officers & Directors

- President.....Grant Purkey
- President-ElectErik Winkler
- President-NomineeAnnie Knox
- SecretaryDawson Dickey
- Treasurer.....Jessica Junge
- Sergeant-at-ArmsJudy Franklin
- Past President.....Jon Taber
- DirectorsJenna Giess, Larry Pfautsch, Cassie Wieberg, Jayden Love, Vanessa Hargrave
- District GovernorAndrea Brady
- Asst. Gov.Bing Schimmelpfenning

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Genealogist has traced many a family tree - especially her own

You knew it was going to be an interesting program by the ancestral displays Marilyn Moreland brought to last week's meeting. There were photos of grandfathers and great-grandfathers, a binder of family data sheets, and maybe the most impressive of all — a chart of her son Jay Moreland's ancestry with more than 500 relatives dating back 250 years. She was the guest of Larry Pfautsch.



Marilyn and her late husband Charles were prominent dairy farmers just north of Harrisonville. Their sons, Jay and Mike, continue the farm operation, minus the registered Holsteins, as Moreland Farms. Mike also serves on the Cass County Commission. Grandson Matt Moreland is the owner and operator of the Red Barn Ranch. One can hardly name an agricultural or community organization that the Moreland family has not been involved in over the years.



Now in her early 90s, Marilyn currently serves on the board of the Cass County Historical Society. She took up genealogy in earnest when, as a longtime member and past Regent of Mary Sibley chapter of DAR, she traced the families of DAR members back to the American Revolution and often

earlier. Marilyn herself has traced her family's roots back to the Mayflower. Her mother's ancestor, Col. William Bradford, was one of the Mayflower's 102 passengers when it landed at Cape Cod in 1620.

Testifying to her genealogical skills, John Foster noted that Marilyn had gifted him an extensive report on his family's history for John's 90th birthday last year. Marilyn's own lineage goes back to Sweden. She told stories about traveling there to "walk the path" of her ancestors, and she compared genealogy research to detective work.

To help Rotarians start on their own tree, she distributed copies of blank ancestry charts and provided tips on the best sources of information. These include census records, church records, land records and numerous online resources like Ancestry, Family Search and Find-a-Grave. She noted that the genealogy library at the Cass County Public Library branch in Harrisonville will stay with the Historical Society at its current location when the library moves to its new facility.

Announcements from last week's meeting

- No Secret Greeter last week.
- Guests were Sergio Chavez and prospective member Thomas Ballard, along with HHS Students of the Month Brezlynn Jones and Logan Boyle.
- John Foster contributed to the PolioPlus bank, calling attention to a newspaper photo on the removal of the former Rotary Playground at North Park, which was deemed structurally unsound. President Grant said something bigger and better will be installed when the ballfield complex is rebuilt.
- Following the meeting, the 50th Anniversary Committee participated in a conference call with Miracle League officials.



Club Calendar

Thursday, February 26
Monthly Social Hour - 4-5 p.m., El Puerto Mexican Restaurant

Monday, March 2
Monthly Board Meeting - 12 noon, Family Center Farm & Home

Thursday, March 27
Classroom Partner Visit - 10:45 a.m., McEowen Elementary School

Random acts of kindness

Rotarians enjoyed another fun Bright Futures Harrisonville Classroom Partner visit with Mrs. Jimenez's 4th Grade Wildcats at McEowen Elementary on Friday, Feb. 20. We focused on random acts of kindness, making bookmarks that we hid in library books and put together goodie bags for bus drivers. Thanks to Rotarians Doug Meyer, Jill Filer, Nancy Shelton, Grant Purkey and Erik Winkler for their participation. The next Classroom Partner visit is tentatively slated for March 27 at 10:45 a.m.



Congratulations to Nora Bowman, left, and Phinn Wise, our February Service Above Self Award recipients at Harrisonville Elementary and McEowen Elementary, respectively. Recipients receive a certificate and a movie and popcorn voucher for demonstrating the ideals of Rotary.



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