



## **Gusto for January 12, 2021**

A publication of the Rotary Club of Appleton  
District 6220 Club 2656

### **Next Week's Program**

**January 19, 2021** our program speaker is Lawrence University President Mark Burstein. He will provide an update on the university and its impact on surrounding communities.

### **Coming Up**

#### **January 19th Program**

Lawrence University Updates  
Thought of the Day: Martin Rudd

#### **January 26th Program**

Rotary Membership Report and TED Talk  
Thought of the Day: Barb Merry

**February 2nd - No Meeting**

### **Program Highlights**

**Today** Our program today featured club member Dennis Episcopo and Dean Gruner, co-chairs of Common Ground (CG), a Fox Cities interfaith association of clergy and community leaders whose mission is to support health and healing in our community. Dennis stated that CG was formed 20 years ago by Appleton Rotarians John Mielke, Roger Bertschhausen and Dennis, working with other clergy and community leaders. About 2 years ago CG updated its strategic plan with assistance from the Community Foundation, and brought in Dean (retired Thedacare CEO) and other community leaders to be part of the leadership team.

Dean shared that CG is currently focused on ways to heal divisiveness in our community and has been working with a trained facilitator (Katherine Wilson), developing a plan based on best practices from around the country. The problem, as Dean clarified, is that a focus on education alone to help heal divisiveness is insufficient, which explains why we as a country have not made much progress in this area for many decades.

What is needed is a multi-part effort that includes **education, training** on the interpersonal skills needed to help heal divisiveness, **relationships** (intentionally bringing trained individuals from different backgrounds and viewpoints together), **practice** (giving these trained individuals the opportunity to practice their skills repeatedly – e.g. monthly for 12 months or more) and **scale** (developing a large enough cohort of “champions” in a community who have gone through the above process – 475-500 in the Fox Cities - to create self-sustaining momentum).

After a successful initial workshop in October, CG is now planning a community-wide rollout in conjunction with other Fox Cities organizations, starting with a facilitator training in mid-March, to be followed by a community-wide workshop in April. For more info or to become a facilitator, contact Dean at (920.716.0485- [deangruner18@gmail.com](mailto:deangruner18@gmail.com)) or Dennis (920.968.0700 - [depiscopo@aac.church](mailto:depiscopo@aac.church)).

**Announcements**



**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER MEGAN LEISER!** Megan was inducted today as our newest member. Megan was President of her high school Interact Club in Plainfield, IL. She graduated from IL Wesleyan University and earned her Masters Degree at Washington University in St. Louis. Megan and her husband moved to the Fox Cities in 2019. She is the Officer Manager of Farrar & Associates Mental Health in Appleton. Welcome Megan!

**DACdb** is our District 6220 database and is a great resource to view information about our Rotary Club members as well as club information for the other clubs in our district. PLEASE take a moment to check your information to ensure it is current.  
<https://www.dacdb.com/SecLogin3.cfm>

## Rotary Club of Appleton Information

### Zoom Meeting Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us>

[/j/86865673847?pwd=enpoZTVqemJmeVdmV0tzeU9ydTlyUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86865673847?pwd=enpoZTVqemJmeVdmV0tzeU9ydTlyUT09)

Meeting ID: 868 6567 3847

Passcode: 307891

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86865673847#,,,,\*307891# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,86865673847#,,,,\*307891# US (New York)

Membership: 83

District Governor Elect - Balakuntalam Sridhar  
Assistant Governor Area 5 - Nancy Leipzig  
Global Grant Scholarship Recipients - Anna DeWitt & Keyla Higa  
Rotarian of the Year - Nancy Leipzig

2020-2021 Officers

President - Anthony Gonzalez  
President Elect - Alan Blake  
Secretary - Ron Altenburg  
Treasurer - Colleen Rortvedt

Directors

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Karen Cain      | Egide Nimubona |
| Blake Doss      | Kelly Radandt  |
| Paul Hillmer    | Erin Schultz   |
| Dawn Nowakowski | Eric Welhouse  |

Gusto Editor: Nancy Leipzig

