



SERVICE Above Self

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<http://www.RotaryInUrbana.org> Club # 3294

Urbana Country Club – Tuesdays - Noon

Repertee for February 12, 2007

President [Deb Rugg](#) welcomed us to the Urbana Rotary Club.

Greeter: [Ralph Langenhein](#) introduced our:

Visitors: from Champaign West—[Mark Dixon](#); C-U Sunrise—[Ibulain Kahoma](#) with guest [Tony Oluoch](#); and from Carbondale, [David Sharp](#).

Members with guest: [James Quisenberry](#) with guest [David Guth](#)

Make-ups: none

Thought for the Day: In the absence of another guy, [Willie Summerville](#) jumped right in with a very appropriate quote: “If you can’t find the truth right where you are, where can you find it?”

Music: [Willie Summerville](#) ran over to fill in.

Announcements:

Guest [Tony Oluoch](#) asked to speak on the problems in Kenya soon.

[Dan Perrino](#) asked us to remember [John Dee](#)’s performance at Krannert this Saturday night at 8:00 pm.

[Don Wendell](#) reminded us that they still needed some volunteer greeters March 1, at 7:45, at the Parkland School to show visitors around. [President Deb](#) said not to fear - coffee and donuts would be provided.

Danville Rotary is asking that each of our members (and other Rotarians in our District) give \$4.00 each for the Watseka fund.

Former member, [Ben Ewing](#) is not doing well. Please ask Kermit for his address.

Announcements (continued):

There will be a Membership meeting following our usual meeting on February 26.

A possible sister city for Urbana was discussed.

The recent meeting of the Refugee Center was a filled-house event.

Don't forget the Urbana School District Alumni Association Cash Back Tickets. They can be purchased at the Urbana Administration office. There is a \$5000 grand prize.

[Libby](#) reminded us of the Urbana's 175th Anniversary Calendar will be for sale at Lincoln Square, and you can sign up for a 1:30-3:00 pm tour of the court house.

I received the following press release from [Ray Elliott](#) which might interest several members:

Local Veterans to Discuss Effects of War, **Led by Author Ray Elliott**

If you want to know how war really impacts the heroes who fight, as well as the loved ones left behind, ask those who've been there. Local veterans of conflicts from World War II to Iraq will share their experiences at a free panel discussion on Thursday, February 21, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Champaign Public Library, located at 200 West Green Street. The public is welcome, and advance registration is not needed.

Urbana author Ray Elliott will lead off the program, entitled "The Impact of War on Warriors," with a literary and personal view based on his own service in the Marines, his family's military service and his conversations with veterans as he researched his 2006 novella, *Iwo Blasted Again*.

Elliott will then moderate the panel which will include Dan Perrino, retired associate dean of the UI College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Tom Henderson, retired funeral home director, who both served in the Pacific during World War II; Dr. Robert Henderson, UI special education professor emeritus, who was wounded at the Chosen Reservoir in Korea; current Champaign American Legion Post #24 commander George Flowers, who was wounded three times in Vietnam; and Garrett Anderson, now an advocate for injured soldiers, whose head and right arm were severely injured in Iraq in 2005.

The event is part of the "Get Inspired! Meet a Hero @ Your Library" community-wide reading program, made possible by a \$100,000 LSTA grant. Running from February through April, the program involves recommended books for each month, online book discussions and hero-themed programs at libraries across Champaign-Urbana.

Along with the Champaign Public Library, partners in the program are The Urbana Free Library, Parkland College Library, University of Illinois Library, Champaign Unit # 4 School District and Urbana School District 116. *The News-Gazette* is supporting the project by donating advertising....

Sergeant-at-Arms: [Carl Webber](#) held court and had a very funny little story to tell. He asked if the members knew an educator. Many did. He said, when he was a small child, his mother called the school to say he wouldn't be there as he was stuffed between the huge radio (bigger than a small child in those days) and the wall.

Not long after, the educator, best known as Flossie, appeared at the Webber's door and asked about Carl. His mother said he was still stuck and wouldn't come out. Flossie whisked by her, walked to Carl, took hold of his arm, pulled him from behind the mega-radio, and walked him to the car—where they headed for school.

Carl added that in this day and age, that could not happen.

It reminded me of grade school principal, Miss Endsley, (she may have been married, but I saw no evidence of it). If the children under her care fought, she would take them to the school ground and have them “duke it out” until the problem was resolved.

And it reminded me of my visit to the island of Grenada. I attended a beautiful local church, situated high on the beach, and during the proceedings they passed out a memo to us all on “When it was appropriate to spank.”

There was a lot of good news, and it was, as always, needed.

Today's Program: [Dan “Vito” Perrino](#) introduced his old friend [John Bennett](#), teacher, lecturer, writer, and administrator at Lakeland College. Now these two go waaaay back, to Chicago days, Hull house, even, when our Dan went by his real name, Vito! Dan says that's a true statement and that his name was altered when his older sister took him to enroll at school, and said, simple because she liked it better, that his name was “Dan.” It stuck, of course.

John Bennett was a delight. He read poetry, and threw in observations, carrying us all away—a perfect Valentine. The poetry was from both traditional and nontraditional sources, and every arrow hit the target. He read from the classics, and from songs we could all relate to, and from writers perhaps new to us. I can think of only one presentation I would like to hear more: a program John Bennett's combined with John Dee's beautiful and audacious music.

Next Week's Program: Urbana School Board member, Cope Cumpston, will introduce Urbana High School essay contest winners.

Tidbits: **As I am filling in for Lissa this week, I wanted to take this time to say that yesterday's shooting at Northern Illinois University, reportedly by a U of I student is alarming and heartbreaking. It supports, once again, that there is much healing to do in these United States and across the world. Somehow, someday, the world must embrace the view that violence is not a form of resolution.**

District Newsletter link:

<http://www.Rotary6490.org/Newsletter.cfm>