



Waunakee Rotary Club

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By all accounts, according to Ruth Shelly, the Madison Children's Museum building project in Madison passes the Rotary International's four-way test.

Representing the Madison Children's Museum, Ruth discussed the project at the June 11 club meeting, applying each of the four-way test principles to the project.

Used as an ethical measuring stick, the four-way test asks: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Ruth said to measure the truth, sometimes we must recognize what is no longer true. Families have changed drastically since the 1950, when in the nuclear family model, mothers stayed at home and fathers worked.

Today, many parents are staying at home not because they want to, but because they have been laid off from their jobs. And more families are headed by single parents, Ruth said. Some 42 percent of children entering kindergarten in Madison do not have age-appropriate skills, she added. Family needs have changed, and we as a society need to respond, she said. The Madison Children's Museum helps to connect children with their families by also engaging their parents.

The building project is fair because currently, the museum is housed in an 8,000-square-foot space that fails to provide room for all of the visitors. The museum also offers reach-out programs to outlying communities, and invites families to the museum for family fun night. It also partners with YWCA and invites people to enjoy State Street.

Some 90,000 people visited the museum last year and 25,000 more had contact through the outreach program, Ruth said. It has nearly

2,000 family members, one-third of whom are free or subsidized.

The new building will build good will and better friendships by expanding the facility. The current site is limited in its service to older children and school groups. It lacks the room and the bathroom capacity, Ruth said.

The museum has been at its present location since 1981, but in 1999, when the Overture was built, the Frautschi family presented a gift of \$5 million to purchase a building within walking distance of the Overture.

The vision was to turn the old Montgomery Ward department store into a new "beacon for families and children," Ruth said.

The project will add windows to that building and a new front door. It includes a green roof close to the Capitol. The plan is to close the current museum in January and re-open in the new building in August 2010.

The Community Concourse portion of the building will feature the admission area, complete with children's activities. Also included is an early learning area for children 5 and under, and the "Possibleopolis" exhibit. In addition, there will be an art studio and the 4-season rooftop where kids can play in the snow during the winter, work the garden in the spring and summer or play in the playground.

The building will be beneficial because it will be self-sustainable, built with recycled materials and with the increased capacity to generate enough revenue to sustain itself. Also, it will help with children's development and preparedness.

"Early childhood education is so important to building the community of tomorrow," Ruth said.

Other items:

- The Chamber Golf Outing is June

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Calendar of Events:

- June 18 – Waunakee-Westport Chamber golf outing at the Meadows
- June 25 – Annual Steak Fry, cocktails at 6 p.m, dinner at 7 p.m. at Rex's.
- July 27-28 – Service Club Olympics.

18, with a barbecue afterwards, said Ellen Schaaf.

Guests: None.

Visiting Rotarians: Matt Wahoske, Madison Downtown.

Birthdays: June 18, Dan Statz; June 20, David May.

Anniversaries: June 23, Frank and Joann Bucaida

Prayers: June 18, Leonard Allen; June 25, Pat Durden; July 2, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: June 18, Susan Hedrick, Rob Wolfe, Amy Fluke and Craig Urso – classification talks; June 25, Bill Erickson and John Olson, Guatemala projects;

Greeters: June 18, Neil King and Ed Kruchten; June 25, Neil Kruschek and Craig Larson; July 2, Drew Lawrence and Michael Lawrence.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.