



Kiwaniis®

Kiwanis Club of Madison West – Kiwanogram

Guests: Robin Hackman and Nancy Shook, guests of George Shook, and Bill Grabel, former member.

Program: "A Century of the Madison Symphony Orchestra" – J. Michael Allsen, PhD, MSO Historian & UW Whitewater Emeritus Professor, Music

Based on his book by the same title, Dr. Allsen reviewed the history of the first 100 years of the Madison Symphony Orchestra.



Dr. J. Michael Allsen

The Madison Civic Music Association (MCMA) came out of the Madison Music Committee formed in the early 1920's. The first performance of the Madison Civic Symphony was on December 14, 1926 in the Central High School auditorium.

The Symphony has only had four Music Directors in its first 100 years! Dr. Allsen introduced us to all four Music Directors and described their accomplishments in making the Symphony into what we know today.

Dr. Sigfrid Prager was the first Music Director, holding the position from 1926-1948. During his tenure, both the Orchestra and the Madison Civic Chorus were established. The groups were largely comprised of amateur musicians.

February 20, 2026

Presiding:	Cody Kramschuster
Greeter:	Joseph Tevaarwerk
Checkpoint:	Paul Aspinwall
Opening Word:	Ken Saville
Setup:	Tom McCrill

Walter Heermann was Music Director from 1948-1961. He directed nearly 80 programs and moved towards the "big city" style with some professional musicians.

The third Music Director was Roland Johnson, from 1961-1994. He trained under Walter Heermann earlier in his career. Johnson directed over 380 programs and oversaw a vast expansion of the types of programs and the budget of the organization. The Orchestra became fully professional, and the Madison Opera was created.

The fourth and current Music Director is John DeMain. The MCMA was dissolved and the Madison Symphony Orchestra was reorganized both corporately and operationally. The string section was reorganized and both blind auditions and a compact rehearsal schedule were instituted. A separate chorus director position was also created.

There has been continual expansion and improvement for the past 100 years.

Date	Event
Mar 6	MWK Board of Directors, 10:00 am
Mar 20	Foundation Trustees, 1:00 pm

Up Coming Programs

Date	Program	Greeter	Check In	Opening Word
Feb 27	How Cows Convert Grass Into Milk - Michel Wattiaux, UW-Madison, Animal & Dairy Sci Dept., Emeritus Professor	TBD	Tevaarwerk	Skjervem
Mar 6	Cheese: The Path from Dairy Producer to Consumer - Rob Rowbotham, PhD, Grande Cheese, Sr. Principal Data Sci.	TBD	Aspinwall	Tevaarwerk
Mar 13	WayForward Resources	TBD	TBD	TBD

Meeting Time and Location

Every Friday, 11:45 am
Covenant Presbyterian Church
326 Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53705
Web site: www.madisonwestkiwanis.info
Email: lebaker@chorus.net
Facebook: facebook.com/madisonwestkiwanis

Club Officers (2025-26)

President:	Dwight Gribble
President-Elect:	Cody Kramschuster
Secretary:	Leroy Baker
Assistant Sec:	Thomas DuVal
Treasurer:	Randy Grobe
Past President:	Ken Saville
Board of Directors:	
John Busby	Harley Skjervem
Jim Danner	Joseph Tevaarwerk
Ed Reisch	

Mark Your Calendar – Middleton Kiwanis Pancake Day – March 7th!

Reminder: Bill Battista Visitation and Memorial Mass will be at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Visitation will be held in the church gathering space from 10 - 11:30 a.m. with the Memorial Mass immediately following. For the full obituary, [click here](#).

Jim Danner reports the next date for volunteering at **Second Harvest** is Feb. 26th.

The **Midvale School Book Fair** is coming up at the end of February. The school is looking for volunteers for the Rhythm & Books / Specials Showcase on Monday, March 2, 4-6pm. Let **Dwight** know if you are interested.

George Shook reports our next volunteer date at **Habitat ReStore** is March 19th, 9:00 am to Noon. Contact George if you need help signing up.

George Skupniewicz and the **Membership Committee** are working on some evening and weekend volunteering events to involve our working members and attract potential new members.

Ken Saville is set to host **new member orientation** sessions. The first session is scheduled for February 27th immediately following our regular meeting. Ken will contact all new members and will offer additional dates.

LaDonna Steinert reports that the **Ethel Allen Scholarship** skiers are in Durango this week and having a great time. We will hear a full report at a future meeting.



President-Elect
Cody Kramschuster
inducts new
member **Chis Shubak**.

Kiwanis Amplify is hosting an informational Zoom meeting on February 19th. Contact President Gribble for more information or to sign up.

The **Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Midyear Conference** is coming up. Contact President Gribble if you would like to attend.



Kiwanis at Habitat for Humanity ReStore

The Scoop by Skup

On Thursday, February 19th, 7 members volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The group included **Rich Donkle, Jim Martin, Tom McCrill, George Shook, Chris Shubak, George Skupniewicz,** and **Joseph Tevaarwerk**. This was Chris' first experience at Habitat. Like every month, we are assigned various tasks. This month it was to unbox as many pallets of boxes of home furnishings donated by a particular supplier as we could in our 3-hour shift.



Typically, we opened each box to find what surprise was inside. The boxes contained things like small tables, paintings, mirrors, shelves, etc. We soon found out why these pallets were donated. Some of the boxes contained mirrors and many arrived broken. These boxes were labeled "Fragile" and "This Side Up." But of course, all the mirrors and pictures with glass were stacked on their side with minimal packing material. We carefully disposed of any broken items.



Speaking of packing material, there was an enormous amount. We unboxed 7 pallets of boxes and produced over 200 bushels of trash. Yet 300 bushels of cardboard and 400 bushels of Styrofoam were to be sent to the recyclers instead of a landfill. We had to be very careful to remove any tape or foreign material from the Styrofoam since the recycler would ban Habitat from ever using their services if they found any impurities.

Great fun was had by all. Join us next time!



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