



**STILLWATER SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB
NEWSLETTER
April 27, 2010**

FUTURE MEETINGS

May 4, Tod Fyten, St Croix Brewing – Paula Williams
May 11, Stewart Erickson, Sustainability – Craig Leiser
May 18, Zafar Siddiqui, Islamic Resource Group – Jim Meier
May 25, STRIVE – Del Peterson
June 1, to be announced – Jeff Robertson

FUTURE EVENTS

May 15, Brewers Bazaar, Noon – 5, Avalon boat
May 17, Fast for Hope “African Poverty,” Family Means 5:30 – 8:30pm
June 21-23, Rotary International Annual Convention, Montreal Canada
Aug 15, Exchange Student Laura Mueller arrives from Germany
Sept 24, Moonlight Golf
October 16-24, Nicaragua Cultural Exchange, Families Welcome (August 16 deadline for sign-up)



FELLOWSHIP

Visiting Rotarians

Rick and Josephine Gilpatrick, Wyoming – Ned Gordon’s daughter and son-in-law

Guests

Roger Stelljes, speaker

Make Ups

Craig Leiser – St. Paul Sunrise

Links

Link to Stillwater Sunrise Website: [Stillwater Sunrise Website](#)

Link to District Website: [Rotary District 5960](#)

Link to International Web site: [Rotary International Website](#)

Link to Stillwater Sunrise Facebook Site: [Stillwater Sunrise Rotary FACEBOOK Page](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS

President Mike Holsten was away; President-elect Arba Della Beck presided.

Brewer’s Bazaar – “It’s less than three weeks away,” reminded Mark Fisher. “And we have lots of job slots to fill,” added Paula Williams, who passed around a sign-up sheet. “There’s room for everybody.”

Choir Practice – Next one will be Friday, May 7, at the Freight House.

Fast for Hope – A film on African poverty will be shown during a meeting at FamilyMeans on Monday evening, May 17. It's from 5:30 to 8:30, reported Dave Newman.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM:

Tod Fyten of St. Croix Brewing will review the History of Beer Making in the Valley. "All talk, no samples," according to Paula Williams, who will introduce Tod.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS

As part of a new initiative, the previous weeks host provides a semi-biographical introduction of the host for this week's program to help us to better know our membership.

Brent Voight was introduced by Ed Simonet. Brent, his wife and three children have lived in Stillwater for five years. He works in direct solicitation for The Salvation Army.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

PROGRAM

Brent introduced speaker Roger Stelljes, who knew him in a round-about way. "His dad was my dad's hockey coach at Park Central."

Roger's day job is attorney. A graduate of Osseo High School, Minnesota State University-Mankato, and the William Mitchell School of Law, he practices with McGrann Shea. His passion is writing murder mysteries. "I've never found anything deadly about Stillwater," he began, even though his second book is entitled "Deadly Stillwater." Reason for that title: His wife is from Stillwater, so he's familiar with the town and with the St. Croix, which provides the river-chase part of the plot. His wife came up with the title.

He has written two books: *The St. Paul Company*, which has sold about 4,000 copies, and *Deadly Stillwater*, which has so far sold about 2,000. Both books have been acclaimed and Roger has won awards. *The St. Paul Company*, published in 2006, is about how far people will go to acquire and protect wealth, even to murdering an investigating reporter. "That plot unfolds over six to eight weeks," said Roger. *Deadly Stillwater*, released in 2009, is faster paced. It includes a kidnapping "and a lot more," and takes place over four days. "People tell me 'They can't put it down,' which is something authors like to hear," Roger said.

Writing mysteries comes naturally. Roger started reading them in the sixth grade, continued through high school and college and was up to about two a week by the time he finished law school. "I could do this," he decided, and, after a delay, put together a first chapter. After more delay, he added another and is now writing a chapter a week. He uses an outline, follows it fairly closely and is into his third book. He self-publishes, uses a publisher for editing, proofing and some distribution, and re-supplies local outlets on his own. He also sells direct, as he did while autographing a number of books for Sunrise members.

He's made inquiry about hiring an agent, which he'd need to broaden sales, but hasn't yet found the right match. He spends considerable time researching plots and asking cops to react to ideas and copy drafts. "I grew up around cops," he said. "Everyone my dad knew ended up as either a cop or a teacher."

Writing has been fun but not necessarily easy. It took Roger five years from writing the first chapter of *The St. Paul Company* to putting the book on the market. That included setting the manuscript aside for over a year, then more editing and polishing before sending it off to a printer.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

A group of 40 years old buddies meet and discuss where they will have dinner.

Finally, after lengthy discussion, they decide to go to the Hofbrau restaurant because the waitresses have low cut blouses and nice breasts.

10 years later, at 50 years of age, the group again meets and again there is much discussion about a place for dinner. Finally, they agree to go to the Hofbrau because the food is very good and the wine selection is good also.

10 years later at 60 years of age, the group meets again and once again there is much discussion about dinner. And finally it is agreed to meet at the Hofbrau because they can eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant is smoke free.

10 years later, at 70 years of age, the group meets again - same

discussion. Finally, they decide go to the Hofbrau because the restaurant is wheel-chair accessible and they even have an elevator.

10 years later, at 80 years of age, the group meets again. Finally, they agree to eat at the Hofbrau because none of them has ever been there before.

President John Kenny- Rotary International

Governor Newell Krogmann - District 5960

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