



"Imagine Rotary"

Vol. 69 No. 10 CLUB 1085

The Rotary Club of Sugar House

The Sweetest Club in Rotary

District 5420

December 1, 2022

<http://www.sugarhouserotary.com>

PO Box 526102, SLC, UT 84152 Thursday Noon, **In Person meeting and Zoom**

OPENING – 12:15 PM

Conducting	Brandon Briggs
Pledge and 4-Way	Mike Hickey
Thought	Larry Wright
Sergeant at Arms	Barry Bank
Music	Merrill Smith

'I Have a Little Dreidel'

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I shall play.

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I will play.

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when it gets all tired
It drops and I will win.

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I will play.

My dreidel is so playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin.

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then, dreidel I will play.

WELCOME SONG

Song by Wally Williams (Former Club Member)

**Welcome to Sugar House Rotary,
We're mighty glad you are here
We'd like to sing you a long song
But a wrong song might appear
So sit you down and make some
Friends today . . . RIGHT HERE**

BIRTHDAYS

Wayne Ursenbach 12-4

Rick Cambra 12-4

ANNIVERSARIES

Steve & Christine Knudson 12-16

THE BIRTHDAY SONG

Fellow Rotarians, we're glad
you're here,
For we understand your birthday
dates are near;
So if it's past, today, tomorrow,
Here's a phrase we'll gladly
borrow:
Happy birthday to you!



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

Jack Ashton

Utah's Music Man

LEE BENSON: Seventy-six years ago, in a scene straight out of "The Music Man," a peddler renting musical instruments knocked on a dairy farmer's door in Idaho.

"Dad came in and said he told the guy at the door I'd play violin," remembers Jack Ashton, "That's as much say as I had in the matter."

The Ashtons' farm was eight miles north of Pocatello, in Tyhee, a town with one blinking yellow light, "so you had to slow down to 50 to go through it."

Tyhee had no movie theatre, no bowling alley, and definitely no orchestra. Jack spent his first eight years dreaming of playing shortstop for the Pittsburgh Pirates, not a violin.

The peddler's sales pitch rearranged his dreams. It soon became obvious that Jack had a gift. His parents sent him to Pocatello for semi-private lessons, then private lessons in Idaho Falls. By the time he was a teenager, they'd sold the

farm and moved to Salt Lake City, where Jack enrolled at Olympus High School and made first-chair violinist in the all-

state orchestra.



That caught the attention of Maurice Abravanel, legendary conductor of the Utah Symphony, who recruited Ashton, once he'd finished an LDS mission to Germany, a year in the U.S. Army, and earned his college degree at the University of Utah, into his orchestra, where he spent the next 49 years.

In addition to playing year-round in the Utah Symphony, he taught orchestra part-time for 35 years at Olympus High, his alma mater, and for over 31 years he's been director of the Young Artist Chamber Players, an organization he set up

with his brother Ted in 1985 for the purpose of "helping good kids play the hard stuff and get better."



The elite string orchestra includes about 40 players who are accepted after auditions. (Another 80 young violinists make up three additional orchestras sponsored by the organization).

"It's not a moneymaker," explains Jack's wife of 47 years, Marie, the Young Artist Chamber Players president and herself an accomplished pianist. "Jack's always been involved because he loves teaching the kids and being with them. His payday is the satisfaction he gets from that."

At 84, Jack is scaling back a bit. He retired from the symphony and teaching at Olympus ten years ago — reducing his teaching commitments to private lessons and a drive every Thursday to Ephraim, where he's an adjunct professor of music at Snow College.

But with the young artists he's still going strong as ever.

In 2016 he took his triennial trip to Europe, with 10 concerts scheduled in 20

days, including a stop at the Salzburg music festival made famous in "The Sound of Music."

Jack says it might be his last trip to Europe. "I can't do this forever," he winks, before adding that a doctor friend in France has warned him that nothing accelerates the aging process more than to stop doing what you've always been doing, especially something you're good at and you enjoy.

"So we'll see," he concludes, 76 years since he first picked up a violin. Unlike then, all the say in the matter will be up to him.

Editor's notes: As a personal experience, he has conducted the Holladay Messiah production that both me and Troy Neerings participate in.

He is married to Marie Yeates Ashton, an accomplished and well-known piano teacher. They have 8 children and 13 grandchildren.

Upcoming Meetings

IN PERSON AT FOREST DALE

1st Thursday, December 1: Club meeting with speaker.

Saturday, December 3: From District Governor Jose: **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Would you please come to help accompany children shopping for their family and their own Christmas?

The Midvalley Rotary Club provides a \$100.00 gift card to each of the children for them to use, although the most important factor is Rotarian or not, as a community Role model.

You can make a difference in the life of these children participating in this project, and also taking a picture with Santa Claus.

Please let me know that you are coming by RSVP to

Josevelasco5420@gmail.com

This Saturday December 3rd at the Target Store located at 7025 Park Centre in Ft. Union

Be there by 6:45 AM before the families start arriving by 7 AM

Tuesday, December 6: Holiday Social at Westminster College. 6:00 pm cocktail hour in the Richer Alcove and 7:00 pm dinner in the Tanner Atrium. Music performance by Westminster String Quartet with soloists at 7:30 pm. A tour of the newly dedicated Gillmor School of Music will be available at 6:30. It is adjoined to the Tanner Atrium. Errol and Sonja EerNisse were significant in this project.

3rd Monday, December 12: Evening social at Todd Suekawa's home. 169 B St Salt Lake City, UT. Start hanging out at 5:30 with drinks and dinner sometime after that.

December 18-26: Hanukkah.

December 20th, Tuesday: Salvation Army Bell Ringing. 12:00 noon until 6:00 pm. Smith's Grocery Store 900 East 2100 South.

December 25: Christmas.

5th Thursday, December 29, Round Table meeting at Fiddler's Elbow. BYOL. Have a good time.

2nd Thursday, January 12: Club Assembly and Business Meeting.