



Bingo: Mark Epstein

Prayer/Pledge: Jason Ramey

Health & Happiness: Pet Sumner

Sgt.-at-Arms: Kent Huggins

Welcome to our July 24 meeting

We are glad you are here!



July Birthdays

Daniel Boyd – 24
Ann Davis – 29
Kevin DiBella – 15
Mike Lands – 17
Craig Lowry – 6
Monte Monteleone – 21
Kelly Morris – 6
Alex Mullineaux – 28
Randy Riley – 12
Jerry Roche – 9
Beaux Schaffner – 5
David Smith – 16
Charles Stribling – 18
Wes Styers – 9
Ronald Sytz – 24



July Club Anniversaries

Kevin Dibella	20
Michael Dickson	31
Steve Hannon	38
Ed Jackson	36
Monte Monteleone	13
Richard Rankin	16



Gastonia East Board Members

Morgan Rhoney, President	Jennifer Purdee, Sargent-at-Arms
Page Morgan, President elect	Will Neumann, Public Relations
Jason Ramey, Secretary	John Pea, Club Programs Chair
Steve D'Avria, Treasurer	Julia Allen, Community Service Chair

The individuals listed below are responsible for Rotary Meeting service on the assigned dates. **If you cannot attend on the date requested, please delegate your responsibility to another club member.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Prayer/Pledge</u>	<u>Bingo</u>	<u>Sgt.at Arms</u>	<u>Health & Happiness</u>
July 31	Richard Akers	Mark Epstein	Kent Huggins	Joel Long
August 7	Wil Neumann	Julia Allen	Kent Huggins	Steve D'Avria
August 14	Wil Neumann	Julia Allen	Kathy Gallman	Steve D'Avria

Upcoming Events

July 31	Jennifer Davis	
August 3	Fantastic Shakers	
August 7	Junior Entrepreneur	Noah Empson
August 14	The Great Eclipse of 2017	Sara and Karl

Interactor from Brazil combats a deadly online game

Horrified by stories about an online suicide game called Blue Whale, Gabriel Kenji of Brazil decided to create a game to counter the dangerous online trend, and hopefully, save lives.

The Blue Whale Challenge is a chilling suicide game allegedly run by a social media group. The game preys on vulnerable adolescents and teenagers, who are instructed to complete a set of challenges over a 50-day period. The tasks begin harmlessly but become increasingly more dangerous, including self-punishing, and end with the teenager being urged to take their own life.

Interactor Gabriel Kenji from Brazil is combating the deadly "Blue Whale" game with "White Whale," a social media project that promotes peace and self-esteem.

"When I first heard about the horrific game, I thought it was a problem far away from Brazil," says Kenji, a member of the Interact Club of Pinhais, Parana, Brazil. "Once it reached my country I realized this type of evil can be anywhere. I had to do something to alert others about the seriousness of the problem."

The game may have originated in Russia where more than 130 suicides have been allegedly linked to the game. The online trend has caused significant concern in Western Europe and South America, particularly in Brazil, where alleged suicide attempts from the game have cropped up in at least eight states. At least [two suicide cases](#) in the U.S. have been linked to the online fad. The title is said to refer to blue whales that beach themselves purposefully to die.

While no one can prove the existence of the game or identify who is behind these suicidal challenges, what is clear is that young people are ending their lives and documenting it on social media.

So Kenji decided to do something about it. He devised a social media game that he named [White Whale](#) to help boost self-esteem, self-worth, and peaceful interactions among young people.

Challenges include forgiving yourself for mistakes, exercising daily, discovering new facts about people in your life, participating in volunteer activities, and posting positive messages on social media.

White Whale is a way for teenagers, who may be vulnerable to the suicide game, to engage in positive activities and feel valued, says Kenji. He chose the name White Whale because he says the color white signifies peace, purity, and clarity.

"We want to show young people that they can make small changes to change the direction of their lives," says Kenji, who will enter college this year to study dentistry. "There is another path for teenagers to take that is far removed from an action like taking their own lives."



www.facebook.com/GastoniaEastRotary

<http://www.gastoniaeastrotary.org/>