



Clarence Mingo

Franklin County Auditor



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Matt Penrod introduced **Clarence Mingo**, Franklin County Auditor, who provided a candid discussion of some challenges we face.

Most Americans in a recent Gallup poll believed that life in America was improving in every category except race relations. Americans feel race relations have eroded over the last 8 years. In 2014 and 2015, cities literally burned as African Americans and police clashed. Clarence recalled that when the O.J. Simpson verdict was announced, whites thought it was a bad decision and African Americans cheered the verdict. Clarence remembered a little black boy who drove his bicycle outside his neighborhood and was surrounded by white men who told him to go back to his neighborhood, and who later moved into a white suburb and was jeered by the neighbors. That person was Clarence.

Clarence is convinced there is a better way to improve race relations than enacting more civil rights legislation. When was the last time you invited someone of a different race to your house, or ate with them outside of work? Even though race relations have improved significantly since 1960, churches are still very racially segregated. Clarence left a black church years ago to demonstrate that this is possible and should be done. Race does not separate believers. Clarence challenges himself on a daily basis to reach across the racial barriers that still exist in our society. New laws can't make this happen. Instead, individuals need to reach out to each other. We all need to come together, get to know each other, and practice love and fellowship. Politics is another challenge. The campaign of 2016 was interesting and on some levels deeply

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GREETERS

May 02

James Nicklaus
Telanda Sidari

May 09

Louis Braun
Brad DeHays

May 16

Matt Rule
John Krauss

REGISTRATION DESK

May 2

Jim Hamilton
Rich Simpson

May 9

John Hansel
John Cleland

May 16

Keith Schneider
Debbie Johnson

CALENDAR

May 2

Ted Celeste, National Institute
for Civil Discourse
Host: Debbie Johnson
AT RAYMOND MEMORIAL

May 9

TBA

May 16

Netta Whitman
Homeport
Host: Dave Dewey

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday, May 6th

Annual Rotary Fundraiser
at Huntington Park

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demoralizing to Clarence. Clarence is a conservative Republican, but he was still challenged by how the primary played out. About half of the members of each party are afraid of the other party. Many people believe that members of their own party are much more open than members of the other party. Many people now say it would be difficult to get along with a new neighbor who is a member of the other party. We are choosing to engage others who are of the same party affiliation, and that won't lead us to solve our problems. Social media has its benefits, but it is not a good platform to sound off on political issues in an uneducated, unintelligent way. What we say on social media matters and has a long term effect. Americans are increasingly divided by politics. In the halls of the statehouse, Congress, and the White House, it is difficult for people of different parties to work together to solve our problems. Clarence encouraged everyone to move beyond the barrier of political affiliation. We can stick to our principles, but we can't let them stop us from solving problems.

We must learn to resolve our disagreements and respect each other's opinions. The definition of marriage has been the subject of a lot of debate over the last several years. When the Supreme Court expanded the definition of marriage to include same sex couples, it was a difficult day for many Americans who believe in traditional marriage. Each side was demanding that the other conform to their point of view or pay a price. Clarence wants respect instead of conformity. Until then, this country will be consumed with divisiveness. You can be passionate for your beliefs, but you must respect your brother's views.

Clarence watched in disdain as government entities barred travel to North Carolina over the bathroom issue. The message was that unless the North Carolina legislature changed the law, there would be consequences. The American way should be to value and accept independent thought and the right to see things the way you want it, and to not be forced to compromise your values because someone else pressures you.

Perspective and understanding are twin tools we need to solve our challenges. About a quarter of Americans do not have a traditional checking account. Incomes in Ohio are \$6,000 less than the national average. Many children live in homes where no one has a full time job. The most common job for someone without a disability is a teacher and for someone with a disability, a janitor. Too many of us believe that those who are struggling do so because of their own faults. No child born to a parent addicted to drugs chose that. We need to be aware these problems exist and that those people did not choose their circumstances. Women make 87 cents for every dollar a man makes in the same position. Clarence does not think we fully understand the reasons for that. Your chances for getting a job vary greatly depending on your name – Tom, Monique, Jose, or Abdul. Clarence was at the Columbus zoo with his preteen kids (one is a D, one is an R) where a lion and a lamb exist in the same cage. If we in Central Ohio can understand and respect others, stand by our beliefs, and have perspective, and if people of different races can sit down together, we will have something to show and model for the rest of the country. Clarence invited everyone to work with him to do that.

Clarence's office will have new real estate values coming out in August. Due to the strength of real estate markets in some neighborhoods, some properties will show double digit increases. Real estate taxes don't go up dollar for dollar due to property value increases. Instead, real estate taxes increase mainly due to new levies.

A member complimented Clarence on the Auditor's website and the vast amount of readily accessible information that is on it. Clarence indicated that the website gets over a million hits a month.

When questioned about his next campaign, Clarence stated that he is running for Ohio Treasurer next year.

The Meeting

The invocation was offered by **Kevin Brown**. Kevin also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Drake Sneed introduced his guest **General David MacGhee** of Wheels Up.

Jim Winfree introduced **Chuck Snyder**.

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Notes and Announcements

Dave Dewey announced that the fundraiser committee is still looking for sponsors and silent auction items. Please let **Anne Crosky** know whether or not you will be attending ASAP if you have not done so.

Brian Hall reminded members of the Upper Arlington Community Foundation's Raise the Roof fundraiser on May 12 at the Amelita Mirolo Barn.

Tracy Harbold announced the Upper Arlington Community Foundation is collecting data from the community to learn more about its unmet needs and desires.

President Chip introduced **Samir Dahman**. Samir and his wife founded the Berkshire Triathlon to raise funds for sick kids. The event raised \$45,000 in its first five years, and hopes to raise that much at this year's event on June 11 at the Mallway Park. The triathlon is sprint (short) distance and entirely noncompetitive. It is followed by a City Barbeque donated cookout and a silent auction. The cost is \$50 for a free tee shirt, the triathlon (if desired), and the cookout. All registration fees received go to Flying Horse Farms, and 100% of the silent auction proceeds go to the Columbus Ronald McDonald House.

Dave Dewey was the Polio Plus enforcer. He had all current or former military officers and members stand. Everyone else donated a dollar.

President Chip reminded everyone that next week's meeting will be at Raymond Memorial.

Berkshire Triathlon is a beginner/noncompetitive short-distance triathlon and duathlon (run, bike, run) event followed by a little party/BBQ and silent auction. 100% of all registration and silent auction proceeds go to **Flying Horse Farms** and the **Ronald McDonald House**. It is grass-roots, local to UA, wholesome, and fun! This year's event will be held at the Mallway Park on Sunday, June 11th from 10 am – 2:30 pm. You can view a video about the tri: <https://youtu.be/8Gci9DbYvog>. They're in need of participants, so feel free to spread the word and encourage people to register at www.berkshiretri.org!

SHARE, INSPIRE, RECOGNIZE & CELEBRATE

IMPACT

ROTARY DISTRICT 6690 SPRING CONFERENCE
APRIL 29, 2017 | COSI | COLUMBUS, OHIO USA



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 29th

for the Rotary District 6690 Conference at COSI. Upper Arlington Rotary will pay the \$99 member registration fee as long as you register before April 7. Let's support District Governor Steve Sandbo by attending! More information to come over the next lunch meetings.

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.