



Kiwaniis®

Kiwanis Club of Madison West – Kiwanogram

Guests: Cheryl Donkle, guest of Rich Donkle; Gina Frank, Ric Glires, Keith Heikes, Lynn Hummel, Dan Johnson, Nancy Pullen, Peter Rayne, Rick Stark and Sue Stark, guests of Case Dorresteyn; Scott Hagen, guest of Harold Green; Robert Fessender, Roger Henson, Rob Stroud, Mary Tevaarwerk, and Jim Wallet, guests of Joseph Tevaarwerk.

Program: “Visit to Brazil” – Joseph Tevaarwerk, PhD, Madison West Member



Joseph Tevaarwerk

After World War II, about 500,000 Dutch people left the Netherlands, mostly for English speaking countries (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa), but about 5,000 emigrated to Brazil.

Brazil is the sixth largest country in the world, ranked between the U.S. and Australia. The equator runs through the northern part of the country, resulting in a climate that ranges from equatorial to subtropical. It was very warm during Joseph’s and Case’s visit in Jan/Feb (summer in the southern hemisphere).

Joseph’s Uncle Johan was one of those Dutch emigrants who went to Brazil. Joseph travelled to Brazil to visit his cousins and see the country where his Uncle Johan lived and worked.

Johan arrived in 1949 at a commune called Holambra. By 1950, he had acquired 10 hectares with a home. He grew vegetables and

April 17, 2026

Presiding:	Dwight Gribble
Greeter:	Jim Wiederhoeft
Checkpoint:	Paul Aspinwall
Opening Word:	Ken Saville
Setup:	Tom McCrill

raised chickens. Beef cattle imported from Europe did not survive long in Brazil.

Johan left Holambra in 1952 and settled in Castro, where he acquired another 10 ha lot that eventually expanded to 45 ha. He initially concentrated on growing tomatoes and potatoes, later adding cattle and pigs and growing their own feed mixtures. He also may have run a brick factory on his property.

Joseph met his four surviving cousins who still live at the Castro property. The cousins include a teacher, an accountant, a farmer, and one who runs a grocery empire.

Joseph enjoyed the Brazilian culture, with breakfast being mostly sweets (no bacon and eggs). He visited a couple of dairy farms and cheesemakers, but cheese is not popular there.

They also visited several larger farms and a large agricultural equipment manufacturer started by another Holambra commune member who left the commune at the same time as Joseph’s uncle. It employs 4,000 people and is still run by the founding family.

Brazil has very hospitable people, cheap electricity and food, and the climate allows two or three harvests every year. However, transportation is lacking and interest rates are very high.

Up Coming Programs

Date	Program	Greeter	Check In	Opening Word
Apr 22	Quarterly All Madison Club Meeting at Kiwanis East – Our Changing Climate – Bob Lindmeier, former WKOW Meteorologist			
Apr 24	No Meeting	NA	NA	NA
May 1	Josheff-Endle Music Scholarship Awards and 2026 ASA Adaptive Skier Report	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: KiwanisWest@outlook.com
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

Ron Schuler is working on the **Henry Ahlgren Humanitarian** and **Golden K Scholarships** this year. He has two applications and encourages members to solicit more. Ron hopes to finalize the recipients by May 15th.

We have received eleven applications for our **Community Grants**, totally \$30,000. **Arlin Brannstrom, Cody Kramschuster, Harley Skjervem, and Fred Ross** are reviewing the applications and will make recommendations to the Foundation Trustees and Board of Directors for the final awardees.

Ed Reisch is working on a potential outing to the **West Madison Little League**, tentatively set for Saturday, June 13th. We sponsor the West Kiwanis team. More information to follow.



Bruce Hoehne reports volunteer signup continues online. To sign up, [Click Here](#). Each individual must register separately using the online system.

Dwight Gribble reports the next Midvale School **Lunch Buddies** date is **May 13th**.

Jim Danner reports the next volunteer date at **Second Harvest** is **April 30th**.

George Shook reports our next volunteer date at **Habitat ReStore** is **May 21st**.

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Gates open at 5:05 p.m. and the game starts at 6:05 p.m.



Madison East Kiwanis is sponsoring a social outing for Division 5 Kiwanis Club members, guests, and friends to attend a Mallards baseball game at Warner Park.

Deadline for sign-up is May 1st. Payment deadline is Friday, May 15th

George Skupniewicz is working on a new member recruitment event with the **Habitat ReStore**. Madison West Kiwanis would take over the ReStore for a day, providing volunteers from our membership and from the public. There are two four-hour shifts, and we want at least 3 MWK members and up to 12 total volunteers per shift. Other members could be present to promote our club to customers. Stay tuned for the exciting details.

Date Event

May 1	MWK Board of Directors, 10:00 am
May 15	Foundation Trustees, 1:00 pm



Kiwanis
CLUB OF MADISON WEST