



Bulletin

East Memphis Rotary Club

Beth Dowdie, President

May 8, 2024

Photographer: Bill Pickens

2023-2024

Our 35th Year

Upcoming Meetings

May 15, 2024

Debbie Litch
Theatre Memphis

May 22, 2024

Gwendolyn Tucker
RIX International

June 5, 2024

Meeting Canceled

June 6, 2024

Newcomers Reception
Home of
Lauren & Matthew Gant

June 12, 2024

David Brown
Crime Stoppers

June 26, 2024

Pass the Gavel



Speaker Sponsor

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 Debbie Litch, Theatre Memphis



Debbie Litch has served as executive producer of Theatre Memphis since June 2004. Debbie has held the position of director of development at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art as well as Interim Executive Director and Director of Marketing and Development at the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and past president of the Memphis Symphony League. She was Entertainment Director for the Boca Raton Hotel and Club and Royal Viking Cruise Line. Debbie has received the Memphis Symphony Hebe Award and Amphion Award for outstanding excellence in the arts on a local and national level, Germantown Arts Alliance Patron of the Arts Award, Gyneka Award from the Women's Theatre Festival of Memphis, the Memphis Ostrander Theatre Janie McCrary "Putting It Together" award, the Distinguished Merit Award from the American Association of Community Theatre presented to individuals in recognition of contributions made to promote and achieve the highest standards for community theatre. Debbie most recently was announced as a recipient of the Tennessee Governor's Outstanding Arts Leadership Award. She also accepted two awards from ArtsMemphis for financial excellence and business acumen.

Debbie's Memphis performance credits include featured soloist with the Memphis Symphony Pops Orchestra, The World Goes 'Round, My Way, Godspell, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Hot 'n Cole, Curtains, The Sondheim Celebration, The Boy from Oz and Debbie Sings JUDY: Just for You and recently portrayed Dolly Levi in Hello, Dolly! at Theatre Memphis.

May 8, 2024

Lori Green, Downs Syndrome of Memphis



In the 30's and 40's a child born with Down Syndrome had a life expectancy of 12 years. Today their life expectancy is 60 years or more. This extended life can be credited to early invention programs and parents who have bonded together to bring about change and services to address the needs of children and adults with Downs. Each person is special in their own way and some have more challenges than others. They may need extra support to develop language, social and motor skills. It is in this area that Lori Green, Executive Director of Down Syndrome Association of Memphis, spoke about the services available to provide

support to individuals with Downs and their families.

The Down Syndrome Association of Memphis is a 501(c)3 that was formed in 1973 by a group of parents who began meeting to learn more about Down syndrome and to work to improve public awareness about individuals with Downs. It was this group that went on to form the early intervention program known as Special Kids & Families. Individuals with Downs are unique and with improved medicines and social acceptance, they can lead a happy and productive life in the community. It is the Down Syndrome Association's mission to be a support system for parents, families and friends.

Lori fielded many questions from our members and graciously remained after the meeting to continue talking with those who had more questions.



Welcome



Joe Wakely, son-in-law of
Bill Pickens



Colton Johnson, guest of
Bill Pickens. Colton left with
application in hand.

Happy \$s

Mike McManus had a Happy Dollar to announce he would be spending Mother's Day with his 99-year-old mother in Georgia.

Bill Pickens was happy to report that the Crawfish Boil was a huge success and raised over \$60,000.00. Yes, Bill, I would call that a success.

Hard Work Pays Off !

President Beth acknowledged the hard work of the Social Committee for their most successful Derby Party on May 2nd at Thornwood. Each received the coveted plate award.



Penny Schaffler
Derby Darlin'
and Hostess Award



Nina Gourley
Event Space
Procurement Award



Sarah Perdue
Sitting Pretty Award



Wendy Smith
Best Bartender Award



Kim Weaver
Best Hat on a Budget
Award