

REFLECTING ON PHILANTHROPY

A Reading and Discussion Program
of ROTARY #14 (Lincoln, Nebraska)

sponsored by
The Project on Civic Reflection

Why do people give?

Why do certain people give to certain causes but not others?

Why do some give so much, others very little?

Do we define a "gift" to include volunteering one's time and talents?

Above all, what role have giving and serving played in creating American society?

These are some of the questions considered by a group of 15 Rotarians in Lincoln Nebraska, who convened in 2004 for a pilot program called **Reflecting on Philanthropy**. Guided by fellow Rotarian Robert Manzer, the group met for four evening sessions to share a meal and discuss short readings from the anthology, *The Perfect Gift: The Philanthropic Imagination in Poetry and Prose* (Indiana University Press, 2002), edited by Amy A. Kass.

Session I:

Lynn and Wisely: *Toward a Fourth Philanthropic Response: American Philanthropy and Its Public*

O. Henry, *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*

Session II:

Andrew Carnegie *The Gospel of Wealth*

Moses Maimonides, *Laws Concerning Gifts to the Poor*

Edward Holmes, *Town Office*

Session III:

Henri Barbusse *The Eleventh*

Rabindranath Tagore, "Gift"

Session IV:

Stephen Vincent Benet, *The Bishop's Beggar*